

THE BEACON

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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Thank you to the following for your generosity:

Anonymous donor of the two new bouquets of tulips on the Chancel.

Kathy Harrison for the beautiful spring wreath in the Administrative Office Hall.

Thelma Miller for the two Easter Banners in memory of her husband "Bob".

Lois & Tom Baird for the gorgeous Hydrangea plant in the Narthex Hall.

Doris Decker for all the birds that she brought in for the display case.

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When I was growing up I did not know anyone who had a library. My guess would have been that only cities and schools own libraries. Everyone else just owned some books; and "some books" in my mind did not constitute a library. In time I read about privately owned libraries. I saw pictures of them in magazines. The closest I came to seeing one of them transpired when we visited Hearst's Castle in San Simeon and the Huntington Library in South Pasadena – both in California. In each case, these privately owned libraries were housed in opulent mansions built by multi-millionaires, homes so extraordinary in size and contents, one can scarcely believe they were ever the private residence of a single family. Beautiful though they were, they had the feel of museums of conspicuous consumption. My fantasy was to wonder what it would be like to have the place to myself after all the tour groups had left.

At any rate, the libraries housed in these "mansions of glory" were beyond the scope of anything I could have imagined. In cavernous rooms built around a fireplace as large as our double-wide garage door, gilt-edged and exquisitely displayed leather bound books lined shelf upon shelf from floor to ceiling. Apart from the wall that framed the fireplace, every wall was a wall of books, and most of them were locked behind safely screened cabinet doors. Standing in such rooms, I always got two distinct impressions: first, that someone in that family recognized the value of books, and second, that no one who ever lived there appeared to have touched them. In fact, most of the books were virtually inaccessible to all but the most foolhardy ladder monkeys. So while the collections were no doubt magnificent, they seemed like a sad and shameless display, a large-scale version of what interior decorators do when they place old Reader's Digest books like so many potted plants, simply to give the room color, and to create the impression that learning is valued here.

All that said, when I became a pastor thirty years ago next month, I learned to my delight that every year's salary package would include a book allowance. And while theological books are seldom sold on the cheap, the amount of money set aside for building a pastoral library indicated to me that if I was careful, I would slowly be able to build a substantial toolchest of resources. And that is precisely what a pastor's library consists of; it becomes a repository for the tools of his or her trade. It could never be bought all at once. If it could, you would not know what to buy. It has to be assembled slowly, like a brick wall, one author, and one volume at a time.

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It feels to me, like something alive, a gathering of ideas, a convocation of great conversationalists who have one by one assembled from all points on the globe to have a leisurely but lively exchange in my study. My job is just to keep the coffee coming, stay teachable, and always be curious enough to ask the next question. Most of my “guests” have become great friends. Only a handful over the years behaved like ‘jerks’, and only a few have been asked to leave.

Every year, important old and new voices have entered the dialogue; sometimes in the form of commentaries, sometimes in the form of remedial language tutors. I’ve been joined over the years by philosophers and distinguished poets, historians and biographers, superb storytellers and brilliant systematic theologians. Some have arrived in the guise of bewhiskered old classics, while occasionally a brash young upstart, barely old enough to shave shows up talking fast and largely indifferent to conversational niceties, arrogant but refreshingly honest, and eager to start the revolution. The eldest in our group delight in his earnest impatience, his righteous anger; there creeps across their ancient visage, a smile of recognition. And the youngbloods eventually realize how much they don’t know, and learn to listen at least as much as they talk.

These last few years, my study has become a gathering place of superb and “cutting edge” new dictionaries as well as a small host of study Bibles illumined by the perspectives of Reformed, Eastern Orthodox, and Jewish theologians. And this year, in particular, I have literally be listening to the Word of God in the cadences of African American Actors and actresses, the story telling folksiness of Eugene Peterson’s “The Message”, and Alexander Scourby’s wonderful reading of the K.J.V.

Take your time. Build your library. They will come.

~ Pastor Brent ~

Women’s Retreat

Ladies, mark your calendar now for the November 6-7 retreat at the Chiara Center. The theme for this year’s retreat is “Being Molded by the Potter.” Flyers will be coming out by mid-May. The Lenten season caught me off guard, but I promise they will be ready in May. Be sure to tell your friends about this event.

March Income and Expenses

Revenues: March 2009	\$57,057.60
Expenses: March 2009	\$71,771.80
Net Loss	\$ (14,714.20)

Thank you to everyone that has paid their 2009 per capita. As you are aware, each year the Presbytery assess’ each church in their Presbytery a fee based on it’s number of Active Members. This year we have received and paid over 50% of our assessment. If you have not yet paid your per capita, you may still do so. The assessment is \$26.00 per Active Member. The church is responsible for paying the full amount of the per capita, which remains \$5,146.50 to date.

Women’s Fellowship

Women’s Fellowship will meet Tuesday, May 5, for a brown bag picnic in Lincoln Park at 6:30 pm. Jan Suttie will give the opening devotion, Midgie Hurst will lead the Bible study lesson 23 from Putting on a Gentle & Quiet Spirit by Elizabeth George, and Cheryl Brockman and Elsie Ball will provide refreshments. So All ladies, bring your brown bag dinner and join us for Bible study, prayer time, and great fellowship.

The “1” Group

YEA!!!! Spring is here!! Now there is no excuse to stay home and not come out to the gatherings of the “1” Group. Anyone who is on their own and would like company while eating is welcome to join in. This month we will meet on Tuesday, the 12th, at 5:30 p.m. We’ll gather at the Texas Road House (this is a new restaurant opening on Veteran’s Parkway to the Northwest of White Oaks Mall parking lot). Please RSVP if you will be attending, so we have table space reserved. If you need a ride, please give Sandi a call, 528-0457. Grab a friend and come on out!!

We really do have a good time and know you will too.

Attention All Married Couples

It's not too late to sign up for this retreat, to be held on the grounds of the beautiful Chiara Center. Again, the focus will be kicked-off by a viewing of the popular current film "Fireproof." This compelling story is designed to equip couples, new and old, with strategies for strengthening their marriage and communications. You will have ample time to reflect and enjoy the beautiful setting. The cost is \$110 per couple for lodging and food. If this cost seems prohibitive, please talk with Brent or Sandi for assistance. Registration deadline is the 13th/14th of May.

Women's Prayer Group

Something new is being added to the weekly schedule. Some of you indicated on the recent survey that you would like to have a women's prayer group, so we are meeting on Tuesday mornings at 7:15 a.m. in the Hanahan Room. This time was chosen to enable those who work to be able to spend a little time with us. The coffee pot will be on, so come join us.

For those of you who can't get up that early, but would like to participate in such a group, we'll try having an afternoon group which will meet on Thursday afternoon at 1:30. This group will begin on May 7th. All women are invited to participate on either day.

Home Visitors

We have several people who are shut-in, living in retirement centers, or nursing homes, and some are "falling through the cracks." By this I mean, they are not getting visited very often from their fellow church members. Pastor makes visits, but there are so many that he can't make it to see them as often as he would like. Sandi is also beginning to make home visits, but again, it's difficult to see as many as you would like each week. So, we are setting up a visiting committee from our membership. If you are someone who would be interested in visiting people, and bringing some joy into their lives, please talk with Sandi. People who indicated their interest on the survey were notified of an "informational" meeting in April; but we know there are others out there who have this gift. So come – step out – and bring joy into others lives as well as your own!!!

Thank You..

The cards, emails, phone calls and offers to help, along with your prayers and caring concern, carried me through a difficult, but successful surgery. Now as I begin recovery, I feel your prayers and thoughts for me and will always be grateful to each of you for surrounding me so completely in Christian love. Thank you dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

God is Good all the Time,
Janet Kayma

Fellowship Hour

We would appreciate your assistance! It is a simple request. We are looking for people such as yourself or your group to sign up to sponsor a Fellowship time by donating treats such as cookies, muffins, breads, etc. on a given Sunday. If you can help us out, please sign up in Fellowship Hall at the table with the big sign. If bringing cookies, 8 to 10 dozen are needed each week. If there is a special Sunday when you want to have a cake, you need to be prepared to serve around 100. If you or your group is willing to serve as host/hostesses that day, this would be great as well. We have volunteers willing to make the tea and coffee but can always use more. If you don't want to sign up for a specific Sunday, but would like to help, you can always bring store cookies which we can hold in reserve for those days when no-one has signed up. Thank you so much.

Women of Faith Bible Study

A new four-week session will begin on Thursday, May 7th and run through the 28th. We are going to study the Book of Habakkuk, the eighth book of the 12 minor prophets of the Old Testament. The theme of Habakkuk is trying to grow from a faith of perplexity and doubt to the height of absolute trust in God. Habakkuk is unique among the prophets in that he openly questions the wisdom of God. We meet in the Hanahan Room at 9:30 on Thursdays. Please come out and join us in this study.

Young Disciples Intern

Heather Huitt has accepted the church's Intern position. She will assume this position on May 1st. Pastor Brent will introduce Heather to the congregation during the May 10th Sunday Worship Service.



Sympathies to the families of Myrtle Perkins

Special Prayer For:

Barb Bailey
Shirley Blackburn
Becky Blankenship
Michelle Davidson
Courtney Dodson

Paul & Ruth Ellington
Jacob Fickas
Colson Fiore
John Green
Faye Grigsby
Diane Hamblin
Lucia Handshy G
Geri Havener
Al & Marj Hood
Sharon Howe

Caitlin Hubbard
Delores Hughes
James Hurley
Janet Kayma
Lila Keiser
Linda Koslofski
Judy Kohlrus
Arley Koschuck
Mae Marie Koster
Elizabeth Lowe

Pauline Maton
Bessie McConnaughay
Linda Overby
Kelly Rae
Corrine Rice
Jake Richards
Lena Smith
Jim Sutherland
Don & Lillian West
Those in the Military

Presbyterian Women

Ladies, come join us on Tuesday morning, May 5 at 9:30 A.M. Sandi Woodard will give devotions and Dorothy Rutherford is the hostess. Bring items for Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery.

Prayer Shawl Group

Talk, talk, talk, knit a little, knit a little, talk, talk, talk, knit a little..... If you walk in the door on any given Tuesday, you can't miss us because of the talking and laughing. We do have a great time and would love to have you join us. Just pick up your needles & yarn and come on in. Since this group began, 83 shawls or lap covers have been given away and around 10 chemo caps. If you know someone who would enjoy receiving a shawl, lap blanket or a cap, please let Sandi know and we'll put their name on the list. This person doesn't have to be a member of Third – it can be a relative, friend or a co-worker.



Music Notes:

Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, May 31st, when the youth choirs will present their spring program. This will be held during the Sunday School hour and you won't want to miss it.

Deacon Notes

In May, the Community Outreach program will donate \$200 to Grace Lutheran's Food Pantry. Grace Lutheran Church will also receive the congregation's donations on Communion Sunday, May 31st.

During the last several months, we have initiated a "Feed the Hungry/Meals into the Community" mission. To assist our community during the current economic times, the Board of Deacons has formed four groups that will be responsible for planning, shopping, preparing, delivering and serving meals on a monthly rotational basis to several shelters that are currently being utilized by the homeless in Springfield.

On March 26th, Carole and Darrell Holladay, Betty Howard, and Linda and Eddie Pease prepared the entree for the Springfield Overflow Shelter (SOS). They served fifty-two (52) clients and staff that evening at 8:00 PM. On April 2nd, Elaine Crowell, Teresa German, Ruth Glasscock, Scott Henderson, and Pat Miller prepared the entire meal for Helping Hands. A total of thirty-six (36) clients and staff were served that evening at 6:00 PM.

Thanks to the Board of Deacons

for participating in this mission which exemplifies the main duty of the Deacons "to minister to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress."

Vacation Bible School is Coming!!!!!!

It's amazing to realize that we're reaching the end of the school year and soon kids will be home for summer vacation. We're making plans for a Vacation Bible School (VBS) to be held this year from 5:30 - 7:30PM on five consecutive Thursday evenings beginning June 18 and ending July 16. We will need willing leaders and helpers to be a part of this important mission. We anticipate that we will need at least 7 adults who are willing to lead small groups of children in brief (20 minute sessions) of Bible stories, crafts, discovery "experiments", recreation and music. We will also need people willing to provide simple meals which will be served from 5:30 to 6:00 each week.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone in the congregation for their cards, prayers, gift cards, financial help, and concerns at the time of the tornado and my moving to another house. Thanks, again! To all! And God bless you!

Chuck Miller

VBS is Back

Hey Everyone! Be sure to mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School. We are going to the E.D.G.E. this summer, CAMP E.D.G.E. that is, where we will EXPERIENCE + DISCOVER GOD EVERYWHERE.

The adventure begins at the church on Thursday, June 18th and will conclude July 16th. VBS will meet one night a week (each Thursday) for five weeks, from 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

No need to worry about dinner, as at CAMP E.D.G.E., dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

More information to be announced soon so be ready to be a part of all the extreme fun at CAMP E.D.G.E.

PEP Club Capers

Members gathered in fellowship hall for a brown bag lunch, games, contests and lots of laughs. Lots of cleverly decorated bags were seen on the table. Our seniors were so creative that everyone enjoyed the time spent hearing how they decorated their bag—Everyone had fun voting for their favorite bag. Prizes were awarded to : Paul Muir who decorated his with bright blue and red plates (he was ready to eat!) Bob Gardiner chose a coal-miner theme using a picture of the coal-miner and coal made of black pom-poms. Dorothy Muir a.k.a. “Candy Lady” chose to use her alias as her theme—decorating with ribbon and peppermint candies. Ruth Glasscock being a dog lover (just ask Jedi) was very clever—she decorated with a squeaky bone toy and a dog leash and she actually ate her lunch out of a dog dish (clean of course) she had treats to share with us (candy in a dog treat container). A good time was had by all.

Some readings were given by Kathy, Jan, and Ginny Schwarberg who is the queen of good jokes—“then the fight began” was a phrase used throughout the afternoon—just ask Ginny to tell you that story!!!

We held a trash to treasure trade and just about emptied the table—it was a success and thoughts of having one after the holiday season were mentioned—one could unload that dust collector that you really don’t want.

No meeting on Monday, May 18th as we will be taking a field trip to Central Illinois Senior Celebration on Wednesday, May 20th. (See next article).

Central Illinois Senior Celebration

Those 50 and older are invited to go to Senior Celebration on Wednesday, May 20th held in the Orr Building at Illinois State Fairgrounds. We will leave from the church promptly at 8:30 a.m. on the van (doors open at 9:00 a.m.) and return at 2:00 p.m. This is a free event

But lunch is on your own. Health screenings, refreshments, entertainment, and door prizes. Bring a soft tote for give away items and literature to take home. Sign up sheet is in the church office. Deadline for sign up is May 13th. Any questions contact Jan Steinhour home 528-7585 or cell 415-5885.

Oops!!

If you receive monthly contribution envelopes you will have noticed there are two envelopes for Communion one for Sunday, May 17th (the third Sunday of the month) and one for Sunday, May 31, (which is Pentecost Sunday).

You should have received only one Communion envelope for Sunday, May 31. There will be no Communion on May 17. There will however, be home Communion on Saturday, May 16. Speaking of May 31st. The youth will present their Spring program during the Sunday School hour. All Sunday School Classes are encourage to attend the program. As always, refreshments will follow.

All Youth Sock Hop

The all youth sock hop will take place on Sunday, May 31st from 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

There will be a D.J. playing

music. There is no cost to attend. Just bring a snack and a two liter bottle of soda to share.

Be ready to dance your socks off!

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CHURCH

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PLACE
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HERE

Worship Service 9:15 A.M., Fellowship 10:30A.M., Sunday School 10:45 A.M.

Thank you to the following people for the beautiful Easter Lilies and Spring flowers that adorned the sanctuary on Easter Morning.

Annize and Nancy Flood and Darrell and Carole Holladay in memory of Walter Flood.

Chris and Joni Gafat and Family in memory of Loved Ones.

Richard Miller and Dennis German Families in memory of Clarence & Sadie Miller and
Chester Sanders.

Mary Bilyeu in memory of Tom Bilyeu.

Thelma Miller in memory of Robert A. Miller.

Sandi Woodard in memory of Loved Ones.

Mark and Elaine Fay in memory of Loved Ones.

Bill and May Wieties and Family in memory of Emelie Wieties and Francis Fenstermaker.

Susan and Shaun Mudd and Family in memory of Loved Ones.

Al and Marj Hood and Family in memory of Loved Ones.

Don and Hazel Stork and Leroy and Cindy Ingraham and Family in memory of Lyle and Doris
Baumgardner

Don and Hazel Stork and Leroy and Cindy Ingraham and Family in memory of Henry, Nettie,
and Bill Ingraham.