

THE BEACON

VOLUME 37 NO. 2

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER, 2009



School Days, School Days

As the summer gets into full swing the children are preparing to go back to school. Among our many mission projects each year is to collect school supplies for children. As you are out shopping please remember the children that need our help. Donations may be left in the office to be given to missions.

Cookies:

Thank you MMS Class for the cookies to Presbyterian Home. Life Builders will provide cookies on August 16 and Small Group will provide cookies on Sept. 20.



Thanks to everyone who has helped with treats for our fellowship hour.

The Fellowship Committee

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

When I buy a book, I am in the habit of writing my name on the top inside page. If I ever lose the book or leave it somewhere, the person who finds it will know to whom it belongs. It is information for someone else. In the last twenty-five years or so I have also made a habit of writing the date of purchase below my name. That is information for me. I like to be able to call back where I was living and what I was busy with when I bought that book. So when I open a book as yet unread and discover that it has no date of purchase I know I bought it over a quarter of a century ago.

Such is the case with a biography I just started. It's about Lyndon Johnson, and it is the first volume of a four-volume work-in-progress by Robert A. Caro. This book has my name on the inside cover, but no date: which means I was probably about thirty-two years old when I bought it. I call this worthless bit of trivia to your attention to serve as a warning that if you loan me a book to read I may end up returning it to your children in their retirement years. It takes me a long time to get to a book, because, like a plane waiting to take off at a busy international airport, there are many waiting on the runway ahead of it.

Again, I recognize that you didn't need to know any of that, except for the fact that it points up something that is amazing to me. Robert Caro started working on this biography in 1975. The first volume was 775 pages; the third volume is even longer. And the fourth and final volume will probably come out in the next five years or so. That means, of course, when he is finished writing the last page he will have spent nearly forty years on this project, almost ten years per volume.

Such commitment astounds me. I am humbled by anyone who wants to do anything that well, that thoroughly. In other words, for thirty-four years since the second year of my marriage, Robert Caro has been laboring to produce a work that I can now enjoy in the comfort of my glider rocker, and thereby come to a much deeper understanding of the century I was born in. That strikes me as an enormous gift, a lavish expenditure of one's life-energy and talent, posited on the unbankable belief that it will prove in the end to have been worth it.

Isn't there a parallel in this with our life of discipleship? Like Caro, more often than not, we labor in monk-like obscurity to shape a way of being in the world that we can only pray will be a modest demonstration of the presence of the Kingdom of God.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from Page 1)

We cannot bank on any kind of measurable success. We do not know if we will live long enough to see our work bear any fruit at all. How many of our peers might count it as a life misspent? But, oh, what a life! Edna St. Vincent Milay said of Christ's effort to redeem us, "I can't for the life of me see what good ever is going to come from it, but, oh, how I respect Him for daring to try!"

In the opening chapter of Caro's first volume on the years of Lyndon Johnson ("The Path To Power"), he talks about when Johnson's great-grandparents migrated from the Deep South into the Hill Country of Texas. It was a trap, Caro says, because the land they were drawn to looked deceptively lush. It was situated just at the edge of a geographic region where sufficient and predictable rainfall totals stopped, and the unforgiving desert began. In two generations the lush land of the Hill Country was reduced to a limestone bedrock slowly being engulfed in useless scrub-brush.

Listen to the way Caro puts it. "At the very moment in which the settlers entered that country in pursuit of their dream, they unknowingly crossed a line which made the realization of that dream impossible. And since rainfall diminishes quite rapidly westward, with every step they took in the Hill Country, the dream became more impossible still."

When I read that, it made me think about what lines we cross in the headlong pursuit of our dreams. And when we cross those lines, do we even begin to realize the unforgiving consequences of our heedless quest? Maybe we step over marital boundaries, or the lines that set the boundaries of honest business ethics – never grasping that the lines we are willing to cross might signal the death of the dream we pursue.

Random thoughts triggered by one writer's enormous commitment.

2

~ Pastor Brent ~

Women's Retreat

Ladies, mark your calendar now for the February 12—13, 2010 retreat at the Chiara Center. The theme for this retreat is "Being Molded by the Potter." Brochures and Registration forms will be available in mid October.

1" Group

This group, comprised of people who are "1" (single), meets on the second Tuesday of the month. In August we'll meet on the 11th, 5:30 p.m. at Fulgenzi's on Sangamon Avenue. In September, we'll meet on the 9th at Mike & John's, Rutledge and North Grand Ave. If you need a ride, please call the church office. Don't be bashful – come out and join us. We have lots of fun, and do LOTS of talking!!

June Income and Expenses

Revenues: June 2009	\$119,776.71
Expenses: June 2009	<u>\$137,433.85</u>
Net Loss	\$(17,657.14)



Woman Of Faith

Bible Study

On Thursday, August 20, 9:30 a.m., the new Bible study series will begin. We will study the book of "Joshua: a Journey of Faith" for 9 weeks. Joshua is a book criticized bitterly in the Middle East. "Like many religious texts, it often is cited in the justification of violence. It also is vehemently dismissed for the same reason." Any study of the book of Joshua must examine not only the scripture itself, but many ways in which interpretation of this particular book has impacted the people of the Middle East, as well as the rest of the world. We will ask ourselves 'what meaning can we find today in the book of Joshua?' I would suggest that all women interested in this study, read the book from the Bible prior to coming to class. I have the study guides in my office – just stop by and pick up a copy. I believe this study just may be one of the most powerful we've done yet. Please come join us!

Carol's Corner

My maternal grandmother went to be with her Lord a few months' shy of her 91st birthday back in 1984. On July 8th, she would have been 116 years old. I can imagine she and my grandfather, who preceded her in death by 19 years, have been dancing a jig together in the presence of the Lord ever since. They were such delightful people to have as my grandparents. My memory banks are filled to overflowing with tactile memories of my years knowing them.

Following the death of her husband, Nana lived with my family for six years (from my 6th to 12th-grade years). She was not given to talking over much nor was she the type to hug-one-to-pieces. Yet I remember well how my heart was gladdened by knowing when I walked in the door from school, Nana would be there to give a warm greeting and to ask me about my day. Nana took on the responsibility of keeping dishes washed and dinners made. While my parents put in long, tiresome, 12-14 hour days as they were building up a fledgling advertising company, Nana was our caretaker in their absence. I am certain my parents took great comfort in knowing she was in our home during those years keeping watch over their two girls.

To my recollection, Nana never bossed us or acted like she was our mother. Nor do I recall her butting into my parents' lives. She led by example. She "walked the talk." In retrospect, I can see how her gentle presence in my family's home was a stabilizing force. During some rocky years, her quiet steadfastness proved time and time again to have a calming effect when the storms of life hit hard.

My earliest recollection of Anne Adele Taggart's presence in my life came around the age of three, so I first came to consciously be aware of her when she was in her early 60's. She already had a large history by then: she had gone through the loss of her oldest child (a son, aged 5) to spinal meningitis when she was eight months pregnant with my mother. Following the birth of my mother, she was incapable of caring for her two children and husband due to deep depression, so Nana's mother and various other relatives faithfully tended to my infant mother and her older sister for a full year. Nana nursed her husband back to health when he suffered a nervous breakdown following the loss of his depression-era job when he returned from vacation (a job which he was guaranteed would still be his upon his return). She weathered the strain of being separated from her husband and oldest child for over a year when she and my mother moved to another town where she had found employment (it was over a year before my grandfather found a job in the same town and the family could be reunited). There were trials aplenty, but I do not remember witnessing Nana ever exhibiting bitterness or voicing complaints about her life's journey.

She embodied a woman whose faith in Jesus Christ sunk down deep into the rich and fertile soil of her heart – a heart she had eventually opened entirely to Jesus Christ. I do not know where or when Nana's Christian roots began to sink deep. But I would venture to guess that out of her painful passages, she realized she needed the Lord to be the center of her life: to steer her, to guide her, to strengthen her, to love her.

I remember her telling me that in the 49 years she and my grandfather had been married that they only had two weeks in which they had their home to themselves. They took in the occasional boarder or would offer a place to stay to a homeless person, especially during the depression era. Their gracious hospitality extended into their so-called retirement years when they offered to my then recently-divorced aunt and her four children to come live with them. They did – for well over a decade.

She was a rather quiet soul, but a determined one. She became the first director (a woman director, no less) for Redding, California's Welfare Assistance Office, which was established during the Depression years. When her oldest daughter had a child born with Down Syndrome, she and my grandfather took it upon themselves to organize a school for mentally-challenged children in their small town of Susanville in northern California. She was a giver and a good listener ... and people sensed she was one to be trusted.

My Nana left a great legacy for those of us who knew her. I believe that her impact is still being passed down to others by those whose lives she touched. She knew her Lord and she knew Him well. She developed a profound, personal relationship with her Savior ... and it showed. She truly was a person who learned to "bloom where she was planted" and to be a quiet, unobtrusive witness for her Lord. ~ Carol Hovland-Mitchell

PEP Club Capers

The PEP Club will meet at 11:30 on August 17th in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy “the good old summertime”. Lunch will be served and reservations are requested by August 12th. Please write your favorite summertime memory (year doesn’t matter) a brief paragraph will do—and sign your name. A box marked “Memories” will be in the church office—please drop yours off by August 12th.

See you there—Jan and Kathy

P. S. We guarantee good food, lots of laughter, and great fellowship.

Shawl Group

This group of women continue to meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the library and you are invited to join them. Please continue to let us know if there is someone who would appreciate receiving a shawl or lap piece.

Women's Fellowship will meet Tuesday, August 4, in fellowship hall. There will be a salad supper while viewing the movie To Kill a Mockingbird. Irma Speeks will give the opening devotion and Elsie Ball and Diana Boone will provide refreshments. Please bring a favorite salad to share. September 1 we will meet at the church, then go to Ronald McDonald house for a tour, and then return to fellowship hall for refreshments. Carol Miller will give the opening devotion and Jan Suttie and Irma Speeks will provide refreshments. ALL women are welcome to join us!

VBS Thank you from Kitchen Captains Jan and Sandi

A great big THANK YOU for everyone who helped our meals to be a success! Whether you baked, served, cooked or did the pots and pans, it was appreciated by everyone who came for supper—You’re the best. Sandi & Jan

Memory Book

Do you remember the church past? Do you enjoy sharing your stories? If so we would like you to share those memories with us. Marj Hood is collecting “memories” for a memory book. Please write your memories down and turn them in to the office. Even the young ones may contribute to the book, before you know it, soon their memories will become fond memories.

Couple's Retreat – “Strengthening Your Marriage”

Husbands and wives – talk and decide to come out to the Chiara Center on September 19 for this retreat. Saturday morning, first thing, we’ll watch the movie “Fireproof”. This will be the basis for the rest of our time together. We are making this change to a one day event because we know economically, times are a little rough. Because we won’t be staying overnight, the cost is considerably lower, at \$40 per couple. Registration is due by September 9th. The forms can be picked up in the Narthex, the office, or from Sandi. Let this be a meaningful time for the two of you.

Deacon Notes

Grace Lutheran Church will receive the congregation's food pantry donations on Communion Sunday, August 16th. Then Kumler Methodist Church will receive the congregation's food pantry donations on Communion Sunday, September 20th.

On July 2nd, the first group of deacons was again responsible for the Feed the Hungry mission. Carole Holladay, Darrell Holladay, Betty Howard, Linda Pease and Eddie Pease planned, prepared and served a meal to the residents at Helping Hands. They served the following menu: chicken salad and ham salad sandwiches, pasta salad, watermelon wedges, cookies and lemonade. Thirty-two (32) clients and two staff were provided a meal that evening. A special thank you to Mya, Betty Howard's great-granddaughter---she helped serve the meal at Helping Hands.

Acolyte Schedule

Below is the acolytes' schedule for the next two months. The acolytes are the youth that participate in our worship services by leading the processional and lighting the candles to initiate the service and by extinguishing the candles during the closing hymn.

August 2	Scott Basso, Tyler Basso
August 9	Luke Farley, Nick Farley
August 16	Megan Clanton Mitchell McDevitt
August 23	Alyssia German David Hartman
August 30	Curtis Dyer, Adam Prince
September 6	Carrie German Caitlin Hubbard
September 13	Scott Basso, Tyler Basso
September 20	Luke Farley, Nick Farley
September 27	Megan Clanton

Mitchell McDevitt



Special Prayer For: Velma Foster
 Norma Benson John Green
 Shirley Blackburn Diane Hamblin
 Ralph Blissett Lucia Handshy
 Thelma Carnduff Scott Hansen
 Loraine Covington Gerry Havenar
 Michelle Davidson Bill Hawes
 Ruth Ellington Al & Marj Hood
 Colson Fiore Sharon Howe

David Hurst
 Lila Keiser
 Judy Kohlrus
 Elizabeth Lowe
 Pauline Maton
 Bessie McConnaughay
 Carol Mitchell
 Pete Moss
 Linda Overby

Jake Pflug
 Corrine Rice
 Jake Richards
 Sharon Riley
 Lena Smith
 Roy & Ruby Tilson
 Don & Lillian West
 Sandi Woodard
 Those in the Military

Choir Notes

Chancel choir will begin rehearsing once again on Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The first Sunday we'll sing will be August 9th.

The Adult Bell Choir, the Silver Ringers, will not begin rehearsing until Thursday, August 27th at 5:30 in the sanctuary. All returning ringers and anyone interested in trying, will be welcomed back.

Youth Choirs will begin Sunday, September 20th at 11:45. Any child between the ages of 3 & 15 are invited to join in the fun. Please gather in the main choir room.

Thank You!

In the spring we checked the calendar and found that it had been 5 years since the handbells had been refurbished, which meant it was time to send them off once again to Pennsylvania to be taken care of. They were shipped the first part of July and are due back by the first of August. They will be "re-sounded", polished, loose screws tightened, and any other repairs made. This project was funded through Gifts and Memorials. We want to thank the families of: Eugene Baker, Mary Bell, Margaret Fitch, Diana Lehman, Edward Loyd, Lorine Matern, Joan Wilcoxon, and Mary Wilder for allowing us to use these funds for these beautiful instruments.



Thank you for your prayers, visits, cards and calls during my recent hospital stay. A special thank you to Reverend Mitchell for his encouraging words and prayers.

God Bless, Thelma Carnduff

Thank You We want to thank all of our Church Family for their prayers, cards and phone calls that we have received. God bless every one of you and we love you all.

Roy and Ruby Tilson

Parents Night Out

August 21st is our second parents night out event. Coordinator for this project is Susan Basso (391-4140). Participation requires a Personal Information Form for each child and a copy of our guidelines both are available from Susan.

Welcome to our new organist Karen Darby. You've been enjoying her music now for a few weeks, and I'm sure you can appreciate the practice time she puts in to prepare for a service. Not only does she practice at home, but she spends 2-3 hours each week practicing here at the church. And that doesn't count the time she prepares with the chancel choir. It is a joy to work with her and to have her on board!

Dear Third Pres. Family, The best part of the celebration that marked my 30th anniversary of ordination was sitting down on Sunday afternoon after lunch and taking my sweet time immersing myself in the sheer pleasure triggered by your cards and reflections. I feel rich and blessed as I've looked back over the past 3-1/2 years and realize what an impact each of you have had on my life in this short span of time. For Carol and me, it was a tender and funny reminder of what has been the best part of our pastoral journey. Your comments were most kind and I now know what it's like to go to my own funeral. My only problem is that my head has swelled and none of my hats fit anymore. I had been touched by the festive hallway display assembled by Marj Hood and Susie Mudd -- thinking my 30th anniversary had been well noted. Little did I know there were other surprises in the works. So let me extend an additional thank you for the lovely surprise that awaited me after church that Sunday, the beautiful cakes prepared by Dee Cook, and the inclusion of my two favorite hymns during worship service. If there was a way you could have been more thoughtful, I don't know how it would be. Thank you so much for the gift of your presence in our life. With deep affection,
 Brent & Carol

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1030 North Seventh Street
Springfield, IL 62702

Phone: 217/528-0457
Fax: 217/528-2649

E-mail: patmiller6378@sbcglobal.net

<p>Non-Profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Springfield, IL Permit #102</p>

Return Requested

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

VBS - Camp EDGE

On Thursday, July 16 we concluded the last of five wonderful weeks of Camp EDGE (Experience and Discover God Everywhere). Children from fifth grade down through preschool age came each Thursday night for an evening of fellowship, a meal together with others in our church family, music, praise and dancing, lessons from Camp EDGE puppets named Blaze and Sparky, Bible stories with memory scriptures, crafts, experiments, recreation, and a lot of love. It was a great experience that brought people together and created many memories for children and adults alike. God is truly at work everywhere!

There were many in our church that came to help with VBS by leading groups, preparing meals, guiding the children to and from sessions, and so much more. Thank you to our group leaders and helpers Karee Prince, Kathy Garrison, Judy Moreland, Teresa Alyssia and Carrie German, Lisa Colwell, Sharen Bucari, Phil Douglas, Dennis German, Susan Basso, Janice Dawson, Ruth Glasscock, Midge Hurst, Sharon Miller, Jan Steinhour, Sandi Woodard, Josie Garfat, Caitlyn Hubbard, and Barbie Gottschalk. Thank you also to Jim Clanton and to the high school and the junior high school classes for creating wonderful backdrop artwork to illustrate the Bible stories. There were also so many others helping behind the scenes, purchasing supplies, donating time to cook and serve wonderful meals and just being there in case anything was needed. As co-leaders of Camp Edge, Joni Garfat and I couldn't have asked for a better response from our congregation. Thank you everyone!

Our campers had a mission project to raise funds for Heifer International, an organization which provides animals and support to families all around the world in an effort to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. Families that receive animals share their animals' offspring with others, along with knowledge, resources and skills to expand a network around the globe. Each week of the camp an offering for Heifer International was taken and at the end of five weeks we had collected \$300! What a great joy it was for the children to be able to purchase a water buffalo, hive of bees, and flock of chicks to be given to families in need!

Again, thank you to everyone who made Camp EDGE possible this year, we are grateful and blessed with your gifts and with every child in our church family.

Bonnie Douglas and Joni Garfat