

THE BEACON

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MAY & JUNE 2010



Mark Your Calendars now

Ladies, the Fall Retreat has been scheduled for Friday/Saturday, October 29/30. Watch for further information.



Do you have a graduate this year?

If you have a child graduating from High School this year we would like to know about it. Each year our High School graduates are presented with a Bible honoring their accomplishments. Please notify the church at 528-0457.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

A couple of months back, Carol and I got a letter from the wife of a couple we met when I was in seminary in Pasadena, California. What the seminary had done was to put all first-year students (and their spouses) together in support groups – something we especially needed when our coming-in-the-door class was a mandatory twelve unit class in New Testament Greek. (In my Greek class we referred to each other collectively as “sweathogs”; i.e. we weren’t exactly the brightest, most advanced class).

That said, these support groups ended up being helpful. We had a couple of Canadians, a guy from Korea, and three or four couples, which included the couple I mentioned above. The wife who wrote to us is named Susan. She and her husband Bill lived in the third bungalow behind ours in a kind of shotgun arrangement of student housing units. The rent was cheap (\$100.00 because we were the “managers”), the bungalows had a kind of late 1940’s charm, and the neighborhood was not infrequently visited by police helicopters and an occasional S.W.A.T. team.

At any rate, as I said, Bill and Susan lived behind us and the four of us became friends at a time when camaraderie was a much-needed commodity. Carol and Susan had their first babies in relatively close proximity time-wise and could compare notes on how they were supposed to do this “mothering” thing. Before the babies came Carol was a full-time secretary, and Susan was an R.N.; both of them earning their PhT (Putting Hubby Through) degrees. Bill, like me, was doing youth work, and also managed a local public swimming pool. The difference between us was that Bill was tall and looked like a 1970’s California youth director, complete with shoulder length hair, an ex-surfer dude tan, and what was called a Fu Manchu moustache. He had this infectious, ebullient spirit, a loud laugh, and a kind of goofy, gap-toothed smile. Most importantly, after a rough-and-tumble adolescence, Bill had come to know Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior, and his number one goal was to help other young people get to know Him as well.

Bill didn’t give a fig about being called “Reverend” or wearing a black Geneva robe on Sundays. But he never lost touch with the unhappy and rebellious young man he had been when he first read a Bible, and scrawled in its pages profanities of various kinds. In fact, Bill kept that Bible long after he became a Christian, as a constant reminder of how hard his heart had been, and perhaps how afraid he had been to let the gospel in.

To be sure, in the “unromantic” realities of long-term mission work they paid some heavy “bills” in terms of the physical and emotional toll such work demands.

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But in that paradoxical way that is so often true, that “hardest” part of their life was also the part they loved the most.

When Bill was diagnosed with cancer a few years back, they came back to the States for treatments. The treatments worked for awhile, and then as sometimes happens, the cancer was back with a vengeance. By January, when Susan wrote to us, the cancer was inoperable, and about two weeks ago, Bill slipped peacefully into the presence of the Lord he had served so long and so well.

When I wrote to Susan, I couldn’t help but think, that in all of the hardest and darkest parts of my life, the thing that has brought me the most comfort, was not in discovering some new and profound insight, but just the simple and quiet knowing that everything we have believed about God, is, in fact, true. We don’t need to know some new and clever story. We just need to anchor our souls in the truth of a Gospel that has never stopped being true, and doesn’t need to be embellished.

~ Pastor Brent ~

The “1” Group

The “1” Group will meet on Tuesday, May 11, 5:30 p.m. at the Cracker Barrel, off I-55 at Toronto Rd. exit. I would like to have a general idea of how many are planning to go, so they can have a table ready for us. Please let me know by Sunday, May 9. On June 8th we’ll meet at Kingpin Bowling alley, Sangamon Ave. & N. Dirksen Parkway. If you are thinking about joining us, please take that first step and come on out. We really do have a good time together and would love to have you join us. If you need a ride, please call the office at 528-0457

Annual Senior Recognition

On Friday, June 11, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. all seniors are invited to the 45th annual Senior Recognition Day. The senior volunteer of the year will be announced, and plans are for the Mayor to be in attendance. Lunch is served, and there is no charge to attend.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone for the prayers, help and love for me, during my illness. You all give back so much strength & support because you are my family. Kiss & hugs to Pastor Brent and Carol for all you do for me. With Christian Love. Diana Boone.



Cookies— The Deacons will provide cookies for Presbyterian Home on Sunday, May 16 and the Choir will provide the cookies on Sunday, June 20. Thank you to those that provided cookies in March and April.

Thanks

We the Hood family would like to THANK all of you for the support you gave us in the loss of our mother. Thank you for the cards, prayers, flowers, phone calls, food and the generous donations you gave in honor of Mom. Our church family meant as much to Mom as her own. May you all remember her in your hearts as we will.

God Bless,
The Hood Family

Worship In The Park

Third Presbyterian Church will once again praise and worship our Awesome God in the great outdoors at Lincoln Park, Shelter 4 (same location as last year) on Sunday, June 6th.



Worship service will begin at 11:00 am. There will be no Sunday School classes on that day.

Congregational Life will host a potluck lunch immediately following the service. (Drinks and tableware furnished).

Be sure to bring a lawn chair and let’s all gather together at the park

In case of inclement weather, worship service will be held at the church with the service time of 11:00 am.

To Everybody: Thank you for your cards and prayers while I was hospitalized and at home recuperating.
Your Friend, Mark Fay

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet Tuesday, May 4, at Lincoln Park. You can bring a brown bag dinner to eat. We are studying the Women of Faith book, Living Above Worry and Stress. Jan Suttie will give the opening devotion, Joni Garfat will lead the study or activity, and Diana Boone and Midgie Hurst will provide refreshments and drinks. In June we will meet Tuesday, June 1, in Fellowship Hall. Elsie Ball will give the opening devotion, Janet Kayma will lead the study or activity, and Cheryl Brockman and Elsie Ball will bring refreshments and drinks. ALL women are invited to join us for a study or activity, prayer time, delicious refreshments, and most of all great fellowship!

The Lion's Closet

A reminder; the first of each month personal care items are collected to help supply students at Lanphier High School with hygiene items that many of us take for granted. Some students are unable to obtain these items and therefore do not go to school on most days. Items needed are soap, shampoo, deodorant, tooth brushes, tooth paste, white or black tee shirts, feminine products, and black or brown belts of various sizes. Totes are placed in the narthex for collection of items.

Women of Faith Bible Study

The Women of Faith Bible Study entitled "Adventurous Prayer" continues through June 3rd. If you are thinking of joining us, don't just think – DO! The coffee pot and hot water is always on! We would love to have you join us. Any questions – see Sandi.

"A Magical Evening"

The Youth Groups are once again hosting the Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet on Sunday, May 16. Come for an Evening fill with fellowship, food, and magic. To reserve your seats please call Susan Basso 391-4140 or Joni Garfat 629-9167, or feel free to mark it in the Ritual of Friendship at Worship Service. Hope to see you all there.

To Our Church Family

Dante and I want to express our deep gratitude to all of you for prayers and thoughts on our behalf and the phone calls as well as so many acts of Christian love.

Dante & Marcella Contri

Deacon's Corner

The Deacon's would like to thank everyone that came out to Bob Evans on Sunday, April 25.

Deacon's will be taking orders for tote bags, tee shirts, and sweat shirts with the church logo emblazoned on them. Orders will be taken in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings beginning May 2 through Sunday, May 23. Payment is due at the time orders are placed. Proceeds earned from the sale will be used to sponsor Deacon outreach programs.

The all church social will be held Saturday, October 16.

Thank you to the following Acolytes for your service to the church: Jeffery Clanton, Mitchell McDevitt, Cheyenne Prieto, Braden Prince, Brett Geever, Craig Geever, Caitlin Hubbard, David Hartman, Luke Farley, Nick Farley, Curtis Dyer, Adam Prince, James Douglas, Tyler Basso, Megan Clanton, Josie Garfat, and Rachel Blisset.



Sympathies to the Families of: Shirley Klint, Dorothy Allison, Lucia Handsby, Virginia Stewart, Marj. Hood, Raymond Taylor, Donald Henderson, David Shelly, and Bessie McConnaughay.

Special Prayer For:

Betty Bambrough, Shirley Blackburn, Dante Contri, Anna Cuiffetalli, Ruth Ellington, Lois Goleash, Virginia Hill, Norma Hinkle, Lila Keiser, Elizabeth Lowe, Pauline Maton, Carol Mitchell, Linda Overby, Virginia Schwarberg, Lena Smith, Roy & Ruby Tilson, Sharon Windell, Those in the Military.

Dear Third Presby Family,

You can never know how uplifting it has been to get a smattering of cards almost every day from you dear folks expressing your hopes and prayers for a smooth recovery. This surgery has knocked the wind out of me, but having tangible evidence by way of your cards and your many spoken well-wishes to me via Brent has lightened the load considerably. When one is too tired to pray, there are others who will pray in our stead. You have done just that for us, and we have felt your prayers. Thank you, dear friends.

Love,
Carol Mitchell

Thank You

For all the prayers, telephone calls and expressions of love and sympathy during the time of the loss of my mother, Marilyn Hollis. Your well wishes have been greatly appreciated.

The Hollis family

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Return Service Requested.

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

VBS STARTS ON JUNE 16! HERO HEADQUARTERS IS THE PLACE TO BE!!

I Timothy 4:12 – Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Do you know any heroes? At Vacation Bible School this year, children will discover many "unsung" heroes from the Bible and learn how they can do heroic things for God, no matter how young they are!

Hero Headquarters is the theme for this year's VBS which will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 on five consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning June 16 and ending July 14.

A meal will be served at 5:30 and VBS activities will be from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Details and registration forms will be available soon, in the Narthex and from Sunday school teachers. All children (preschool through 6th grade) and adults are welcome to come and enjoy the meal and fellowship time at 5:30. A Bible study for adults will be led by Pastor Brent while the children attend VBS.