

The Church Crier

July 2008

“United in Christ to Show and Share the Love of God”

St. Peter - Trinity United Church of Christ

Rev. Paul "Chip" Jahn

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From the Pastor: “The Written Word: Speaking Across Continents and Centuries”

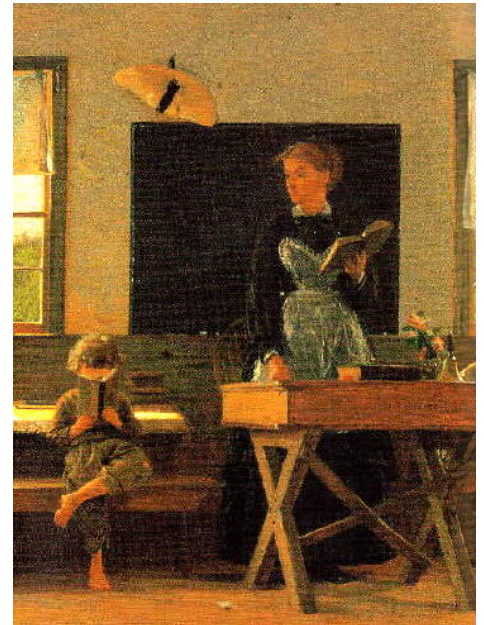
Reading didn't come easy to me as a kid. I was slow and would lose interest because the benefits never seem to be worth the exertion. But then I had a mystical encounter with a school librarian endowed with what seemed a supernatural gift. She could look into a kid's eyes and know just what book would enthrall them. For me, it was a series of books about a nerdy kid, Danny Dunn who stumbled into a variety of extraordinary scientific adventures.

Suddenly I realized reading was a gift. It allowed me to walk on the moon with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. It has taken me on safari in the Serengeti. I've fought with the Chamberlain's 20th Maine on Little Round Top at Gettysburg. I've watch Atticus Finch close to the jury in “To Kill a Mockingbird”, and plotted with the pigs in “Animal Farm”. The written word allows me to converse with people on the other side of the world and explore the greatest ideas of men and women of past generations. Reading has allowed me to probe the writings of the Prophets and search the Gospel for the logic of God.

Reading has enabled me to earn a living and answer the call to ministry. It has made it possible for me to find my way to the other side of the world and program my VCR (Oh... I forgot, I never was able to program my VCR). If suddenly I were not able to read I think it would be like losing my sight.

There are those in our community living with this invisible handicap. They can't read the precautions on a prescription bottle or cooking instructions on a frozen dinner. They can't read their children a bedtime story or the questions on a job application. Like the visually impaired or an amputee, many have learned clever ways to compensate for illiteracy. I knew a man who never went shopping without his eight year old daughter to read things for him. I knew a woman that tried to schedule all her job interviews after lunch and when asked to fill out an application ask if she could take it home claiming to have a touch of food poisoning.

I counseled a guy caught making meth in his trailer with only about 6 inches between his kitchen chemicals and his kids. I asked him why he would do



something that stupid; he said it was the only thing that could pay his bills. He couldn't get a better job because he couldn't read.

The Word of God doesn't become flesh in us until it is read by us.

Congregational Concerns:

Prayer Chain:

We are grateful that Dottie Wittman seems to be recovering from a lung infection that caused her to be bounced between Evansville hospitals for several weeks in July. She went into Deaconess Gateway and had a chest tube put in to drain the infection only to become very sick. Critical changes in her medication, constant vigilance from members of her family, and the prayers of friends all seem to contribute to her recovery. She is home gaining strength.

Wanita Roos is home after a short hospital stay to receive two units of blood. She continues with her treatments. Keep her in your prayers as she goes in this week for tests to see how well the treatments are doing.

Angie Mathies' initial surgery July 10 went very well, but she was readmitted to Memorial Hospital in Jasper the next week after becoming dehydrated. She is home and feeling better, but we are going to keep her in our prayers as she continues to recover.

We are grateful that Ed Hopkey is feeling better after an auto accident. He avoided serious injury but was stiff and sore for a couple weeks.

Nicole Ward continues to receive therapy in Evansville to help her recover from the brain surgery she underwent to remove a benign tumor in June. She is doing well but lets keep her family in our prayers.

Ralph and Judy (Lottes) Davis have asked for prayer for their niece of their daughter-in-law< ViviAnna Grace Bohannon who is three-year-old and recently diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. She is about to begin a 2 ½ year regiment of chemotherapy.



Wedding:

Eric Scherer and Suzette Austin were married July 4. They are moved to Eric new assignment where he will receive more training. Their new address is:
1222 D Marlatt Ave. Manchester, KA 66502

Called Home:

Joe Marshall's mom, Deloris Marshall passed away Wednesday, July 25. Services were held at Boultinghouse Funeral Home in Rockport Saturday, July 28

Larry Scheerle died Wednesday, July 16 in the nursing home were he was living. Services were held at St. Peter's Saturday, July 19 where he was buried.

Baptism:

Adi Becher and Sadie Peters will be baptized during worship Sunday, August 3.

Vacation Bible School: “All Creatures Great and Small”



Members of Trinity stayed after worship, Sunday, July 20 to set up tents and make final preparation for Vacation Bible School, which started at 8:30 the next morning. Work had begun months in advance as our program took shape around our theme: animals in the Bible.

Volunteers from Trinity, St. Peter’s and Dale Presbyterian Churches had stepped forward to help gather craft materials, bake cookies, even fill hundreds of water balloons. There were a couple of folk that planned their vacation around Vacation Bible School.

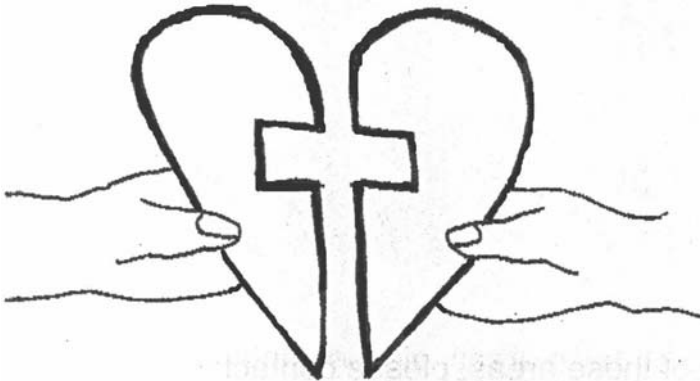
Each day there were different animals helping the kids learn about God’s good news. A sheep visited Monday making the point that Jesus, as the Lamb of God, saves us from sin and death. Tuesday Jim Roessler mesmerized the kids talking about honeybees as we explored the cooperation needed in the Kingdom of God. Wednesday we talked about God’s compassion using a mother hen as our animal teacher. Thursday fish served as object lessons on discipleship.

Thursday night the kids came back to Trinity for a cookout, games, square dance and sleep over. Mel Menke was our guest square dance caller. We have a wonderful time Friday we learned about how Heifer International can improve lives with water buffalo. The kids challenged themselves to raise \$500 for two. If the kids raise the money there will be a surprise in a future worship service.

Vacation Bible School ended with “Bless Your Body”, our name for our annual water balloon fight. We learned new songs. We made new friends. We learned that God’s love surrounds us in his whole creation.



Fall Women's Retreat: "United in Christ to Show and Share the Love of God"



The women of Indiana Kentucky Conference will meet at our Merom Conference Center October 3, 4 and 5 for their annual retreat. The women last year decided they enjoyed it so much that they extended it a day. Registration deadline is September 15. The cost of the retreat is \$75 for Friday and Saturday and \$125 for three days, Fri. – Sat. They are using St. Peter's statement of concern for their theme. If you're interested in getting more information

give Gayle a call (529-8232). There is scholarship money available both through the I-K Conference and the Women of Lincolnland. Gayle can help with that as well.

Food Resource Bank: "Lincolnland's Growing Project"



This spring, as planting season was about to begin; the Lincolnland Association had just around 20 acres pledged by member congregations to the Food Resource Bank. We had been challenged at our Fall Association Meeting to set aside land on which we could grow a crop of which the harvest's profits would go to the Food Resource Bank. This is a program develop by Midwestern UCC farmers to provide funding for world hunger relief projects. It was meant to be a cooperative

effort where rural congregations donated land, equipment and expertise and urban congregations donated funds to put out a crop. We were encouraged to ask agricultural businesses to make in-kind donations. We, at St. Peter and Trinity, early this year received a grant from Monsanto for \$1000 to help buy fertilizer and seed.

Little by little the project has grown. Every time I ask either Steve Leiberger or Mel Minke how we are doing, someone else has contributed some more ground. We have just around sixty acres at my last count. This would make the Lincolnland project one of the biggest in the Land Resource Banks short history.

This fall we will celebrate the harvest at our Lincolnland Fall Association Meeting, at Minke's Barn for a hog roast Sunday, October 19. It will be a chance to find out how things are going for the Brooklawn Water Park and how much we get for our crop. The proceeds from the crop will be used by the Food Resource Bank to create sustainable agricultural projects somewhere in the world. The evening will end with a square dance. Come and bring a friend. We'll have a great time.

**Operation School Supplies:
506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq**



Soldier sorting supplies.



Kids of Kirkuk with school supplies.

Help the children of Iraq. Operation School Supplies is an outreach program supported by the men and women assigned to Kirkuk Regional Air Base and FOB WARRIOR. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and civilian contractors communicated the needs to their families, friends and organizations back home. When the donations arrive, they are packaged and distributed to the needy school children of Iraq. We have recently been requested to assist several new schools in the Northern part of Iraq. Our efforts build strong, positive relationships across many generations of Iraqi families and your assistance is a partnership with us in building a brighter future for our friends here.

-Please don't send liquids, food or money.

-Please no religious specific or culturally offensive items.

Standard School Packet per Child:

(in order of greatest need)

Round-end Scissors
Pencil Sharpeners
Erasers
Metric Rulers
Color Pencils
Construction Paper
8 ½ x 11" Notebooks
Coloring Books
Pens
24 pack Crayons
Pencils

Other Useful Items:

Small Toys
Kites
Jump Ropes
Frisbees
Sporting Goods
Soccer balls
Footballs

Items will be mailed to:
506 AEG/EHC
Operation School Supplies
Unit #70080
FOB WARRIOR
APO AE 09359

Sew-Be-It:

People are needed to sew school bags during the month of August for the Operation School Supplies. We have precut bags. Brooklawn Christmas stockings need to be done by December.