

# The Church Crier

May 2008

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

St. Peter - Trinity United Church of Christ

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From the Pastor: “Ripples of the Resurrection”

The resurrection of Jesus will always be controversial. When the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem learned Jesus' tomb was empty; they began spreading rumors that the disciples had come in the middle of the night and carried off the body. There are scholars and skeptics that say the appearances of the risen Jesus were everything from wishful thinking to mass hysteria. Perception is always shaped by faith. There are some that love the ethics of Christianity but can't trust what lies beyond their common experience. They're like Thomas, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." The truth is, I don't think, it takes any more faith to believe Jesus was raised from the dead than it does to believe the world is only what we see and hear and touch. The question isn't do you have faith; but in what will you put your faith?



What must it have been like to see the risen Christ, to touch the nail prints? It would be easy to believe if we could meet the risen Jesus in the garden by the tomb, or early in the morning on the shore of the Galilee, or spend the day walking with him on the road to Emmaus. We'd have seen and heard and touched. The world, for a while, had these eyewitnesses. Followers or just the curious would gather on Sunday mornings and listen to remembrances of Jesus' teachings, and then (what the curious had really come to hear) one of the Apostles would stand up and describe how they had met the risen Christ. Perhaps we think it would be easier to believe if we could have heard a first hand account of an actual witness to the resurrection.

Here we are, separated from the original Easter by almost two thousand years, expected to build our lives around what seems such an implausible story, on what seems like so little evidence... But I would suggest the evidence is all around us.

You don't need to see a stone thrown into a pond to know what's happened. You hear the splash, turn and see the ripples. The effects of the event are as conclusive proof of what's happened as witnessing the original event. The resurrection of Jesus has sent ripples through history beginning with the reaction of the first witnesses. It doesn't make sense that they would have given their lives for a lie. Their renewed courage and passion for the Gospel became the first ripple. With each succeeding generation the ripples of the resurrection have expanded and gotten stronger. We have this intuitive sense that faith is created by proof; that we come to believe the things that we have seen and touched and heard. But it's not that simple. Two people can experience the same thing and process the experience differently. I believe proof of the resurrection is found in every selfless, faithful act; but my faith processes my experience that way. Faith that God is working in the world helps me see that the effects of the resurrection are all around me.

**“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

## **Congregational Concerns**

### **Hospital Calls:**

Marvin Leiberling had a nerve stimulator implanted on May 2 as an outpatient at St. Mary's. Everything went well, and he is doing okay. Please keep Marvin and his family in your prayers.

Becky and Allison Hunter were in a bad accident Sunday, April 26. Becky was released from the hospital—she is banged up and will be sore, but OK. Allison had surgery to remove debris from her arm. She had a broken arm and broken ribs and will be all right also. After a couple days observation at St. Mary's Allison was released to recover at home. They are fortunate to not have been more seriously injured. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Please continue to keep Eugene Minor in your prayers. He continues to battle an irregularly fast heartbeat.

Cathy Cannon is home from Ohio where she broke her femur. She will be recovering there for the next several weeks.

Debbie Foertsch's grandson is in the Kosair Hospital emergency room. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Angela and Albinawi Tiguida have asked that you keep Angela's father, Bill Barnett who slides in and out of a coma.

### **Thank Yous:**

A great big thank-you to everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, and meals brought in during this past month. We are truly blessed with family and friends. Love, Marvin, Betty, Cheryl, Daryl, Lana and families.

### **Wedding:**

Jessica Beier and Austin Anderson will be married Saturday, June 27 at 2:00 at the St. Meinrad Community Center.

### **Health Ministry News:**

There has been a change with the date and time for "Never Say Diet". We will be starting May 12th at 6:30. It will be on Tues now instead of Wed. I'm sorry for any confusion this may cause. Let me know if you are interested in joining us. We need a "Never Say Diet" book by Chantel Hobbs and the Training Guide that goes with it. These can be purchased at most book stores. Thanks Jenny Thomas

Palates group meets every Wednesday afternoon at St. Peter at 4:00 and would like to invite everyone to join them.

### **Niger Ministry:**

Albinawe has left for Niger. Thanks to all who contributed to the relief effort. He is taking funds for food relief to his hometown, Bankalara. The economic hardship that we are seeing here in the states has had life threatening implications in Albinawi's home town. Trinity and St. Peter sent just over \$800.00 for that ministry.

## **Christian Education News**

### **Vacation Bible School:**

It is time to start planning for this summer's Vacation Bible School. This year St. Peter's will host. We are looking for volunteers, beginning with someone willing to serve as director. In the past, St. Peter's has held VBS in the evening Monday through Friday on a particular week. A suggestion is that it could be held the five Friday's in July. The Spencer County 4H fair will be the end of June this year, so it is felt we would be better off having VBS after the fair. If you are willing to help contact Andie Vance or Rev. Jahn.

### **Sunday School Teacher:**

We are looking for someone to help Phil Leiberger teach the High School Sunday School class.

### **Soccer Ball Ministry:**

We sent 271 soccer ball, 12 air pumps and 24 needles to Kirkuk Reginal Air Base to be distributed to the local kids by the chaplain. This is the thank you note from Sergeant Tague:

Greetings Gayle Morley Jahn!

Yes, we did just receive the boxes of soccer balls and a thank you letter went out to Champro Sports already.

We sincerely appreciate the support you give us in reaching out to the Iraqi school children. Many balls have already went out on Army school missions I am happy to report. Please pass along our deepest appreciation to you and others who have partnered with us in this important outreach.

Blessings, James Tague, SSgt, Chaplain Assistant

506 AEG/EHC

Freedom Chapel

Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq

444-2059/2060



### **Lincolnland Women:**

Tuesday, May 12, Lincolnland Association will meet at Salem UCC, Huntingburg. Gayle is attending and would like others to attend also—the meeting will be about establishing a Women's Guild. It begins around 9:00 and finishes at 2:00. Let Gayle know if you are interested.

### **Jasper's Youth Invitation**

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser: On Saturday, June 6 from 9 am until 11 am the Youth Group of Trinity UCC in Jasper will be hosting a community wide pancake breakfast to benefit the Jasper Food Bank, United Caring Shelter in Evansville and World Vision. \$5 in cash will earn you all

the pancakes you can eat and a non-perishable food item will keep your coffee mug or juice glass filled for the morning. Come join us for good food, good fellowship and a good cause.

### **Sri Lanka Mission**

The situation in Sri Lanka has worsened as the world's attention has been drawn away to other wars, the flu outbreak and collapsing financial markets. Meanwhile tens of thousands of Tamil refugees have been put in detention camps through the north and east of Sri Lanka cut off from most humanitarian relief and international media. The pictures have been secretly taken by a Tamil doctor in an effort to raise the alarm that these camps are a humanitarian disaster waiting to happen. I



I have been asked by our church partners, the Jaffna Diocese and the International Working Group on Sri Lanka to make a trip to Sri Lanka this summer and try to visit these camps.

### **Duffy's Mission**

Dear Friends and Family,

One of the main reasons that I chose the career in teaching is because of the opportunity to do mission work through the summer. I didn't know when or where, but my prayers focused on the idea of doing the most loving thing in the face of the worst circumstances. Now I know where I'm supposed to go.

In the hill tribes of northern Thailand, there are many different groups of people: groups that have been there for generations. But Thailand only recognizes seven tribes, so the rest of the people do not fall under the service and protection of the government. Some live in extreme poverty. These families become the targets of human traffickers. Out of the desperation, the families will send their young children with the traffickers who operate under the idea that they are going to give the children a job or a place to live. The children are then forced into prostitution or slave labor. The girls, ages 8-14, go through a breaking period where they are kept locked up and required to service 20 men a day. They call this "seasoning." Many of the girls will contract AIDS, and then they cannot return to their families. But this can be stopped.

In August, I'll be traveling to orphanages in Thailand to work and share the Gospel. These orphanages have 3 goals: prevent, rescue and heal. We want to get these kids out of these situations and to give them a loving place in which to flourish. The kids of this orphanage are raised with the love of Christ, and they will be the light that grows in that region. Many of the children that were part of the first rescues are now working at the orphanages. I'll be helping with the kids and training some of the workers. I'll also be doing some welding and mechanical

work. If you know me, then I'll give you a second to stop laughing about the mechanical work part.

Lana Vasquez, the lady that started the work, had one thought when she learned of these kids eight years ago. We've got to do something. I'm asking you for three things. First, prayer. Many things have to come together to make this work. Please pray for the kids and the workers. Secondly, a voice. I would ask that you talk about this work with as many people as you can. You never know the impact that it may have on someone. The DVD introduces you to the region and some of the kids at the orphanages. You can also go to [www.lifeimpactintl.org](http://www.lifeimpactintl.org). Finally, financial support. I need to raise around \$2500 in order to make the trip. I'm getting together what I can, and I wouldn't be asking for help if I didn't believe in the work. If you want to know more, just ask.

I was pulled to this work because of the kids. Each of the young kids has two possible futures. There is one of hurt, loneliness and deceit, where the kids see themselves as objects to be used. And there is one of trust, family and everlasting life, where they know that they are loved. I want to help give them a chance at the full life.

Thank you for your help, Duffy Schulthise

### **Calendar of Events:**

Sundays the bowling alley in Tell City closes so the youth group will have a bowlathon to raise money for their summer programs some weekday evening. We hope you will sponsor someone in the group. We hope you'll be generous per pin because looking at our bowling scores... well we may not be going very far this summer.

This year's Baccalaureate is Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 at Santa Claus Methodist.

Confirmation meets for just the 8<sup>th</sup> graders between now and Pentecost as they prepare their statements of faith. They will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday May 31 during worship at St. Peter's.

Trinity will have a Family Picnic June 7. We will have a Family Movie Night Saturday, June 20.