

# FRIENDLY VISITOR

The Newsletter of the Warren Park Presbyterian Church ~ April 2011

## *Pastor's Page*

When our children were in kindergarten at the Wheaton Christian Grammar School, they had a legendary teacher who made an impression on so many young lives, and she was known as a raconteur, a skilled storyteller. One little kindergartner was just awed by her story of the birth of Christ, and when he spoke about that to one of his friends in the class, the friend said, "If you think the Christmas story is great, just wait till you hear the Easter story!" That sentiment reverberates for me. I can hardly wait to tell you the Easter story, even though you've heard it many times, just as I have told it many times, and every time it seems "more wonderfully sweet."<sup>1</sup> And this is the irony, as Catherine Hankey expresses it, "those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest."

Because Easter is the truly High Holiday for us Christians, I always feel that my Easter sermon has to be something really special. Sometimes that "something really special" translates in my mind to a beautifully crafted sermon that will break open this "old" truth of new life, but it need not be. I suppose if I were the raconteur this kindergarten teacher was, I could just tell the story of our Savior's resurrection on Easter Sunday morning, and that would be enough. The power and the glory are inherent in the narrative, and they don't need my literary skills, whatever they are, nor anyone else's, although God uses those in His unique way. They are there in the historical event, and even a kindergartner can be gripped by their power and glory.

We are in the middle of our study on "Heaven" on Thursday mornings, and I have already begun to sense that this topic is more than I—or any of us, for that matter—can ultimately grasp. We keep reaching for understanding, and it all seems "so wonderfully sweet," that Jesus would go and prepare a place for us (John 14); yet our reach is not long enough to get hold of the magnitude of that truth. Indeed, He got up that first Easter Sunday morning to make His way back to glory, from which He came, to get our place ready. You see how these two truths are connected. And when we get there, I really believe it's the old, old story we're going to be telling over and over again. Somehow the intriguing stories about this life that have become our anecdotal treasures, those we have imagined ourselves rehearsing with loved ones there, will fade into the recesses of our

memory, I suspect, as they give way to the blessed story we are going to hear again this Easter. “And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, ‘twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.” Even the angels are curious about it (1 Peter 1:12). I invite you to join me in this angelic curiosity again this Easter Sunday. We will, as we have done in recent years, also have our “Service of the Roses,” as we celebrate the lives of our members who have died since last Easter and are awaiting their resurrection.

In Christ our Risen Lord,  
Hassell Bullock

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<sup>1</sup> A. Catherine Hankey, “I Love to Tell the Story.”

## Notes from Eric & Hope Prinkey...

*A new season is upon us*

When we were in the midst of the blizzard a few months ago, we said to one another, “it is almost hard to imagine that all of this snow will soon be gone.” After all, it was kind of paralyzing in the midst of it and it forced us to put life on hold for a couple of days. But, we knew full well that it was not going to snow forever and that we would soon be able to get out of our driveway. Therefore, we were able to enjoy the storm and the time off for what it was and we made some memories while we were at it.

Isn't it great to know that in the midst of the dark and scary times that things are not what they appear and that God is in control? This is why the arrival of Lent every year is the best time of the year. As it arrives, we are reminded of the newness of life that Spring and Resurrection Sunday bring. John 1:3-4 says, “*God created everything through him (the Word or Jesus Christ), and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.*” And, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 says that, “*anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ*” (New Living Translation).

So, as you watch the tulips and daffodils bloom this Spring, think about the newness of life available to you through the life and death of Jesus Christ. *Rejoice and give thanks!* And, if you have never experienced this renewal, we invite you to. Get in touch with us or Pastor Bullock to learn more.

## Mission Report

A letter from **Lorry Lutz** began this way: “Prayer is becoming more important to me—to all of us in these days of turmoil.” She’s been praying for two believers imprisoned in Afghanistan and facing the death penalty for conversion from Islam. One, Said, held since May, was released and deported to another country to join his wife and six children. Shouba, who gave a New Testament to another person, is still under a death threat. Lorry serves on the India Missions Board of her church. The members felt that the ministries they support in India needed encouragement and asked Lorry to go. At first she refused. God convicted her and several friends convinced her that she should use her abilities as long as she was able. The church graciously assumed any costs involved. Lorry prepared teaching lessons and devotionals for use during her stay. From March 6<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> she visited ministries in Delhi, Hyderabad and Trivandrum. Some ministries are supported by Partners International and were familiar for that reason. We hope to hear more news later.

**Julie and Elias Madeira** are thankful for being able to paint the clubino where the kid’s club and Bible studies are held. They thank us for prayers for a young teacher who had cancer surgery in mid-March. Please continue to pray as the woman needs further testing for doctors to decide the best treatment for a tumor they were not able to remove. Julie has been helping two days each week at the school the church runs and now knows the five-year-olds quite well. One family from the Tuesday night Bible study needs prayer. A daughter, who was in jail and recently released, came home only to be arrested again for possession of drugs. At Saturday club her son asked for prayer for his mom. The other children heard the request and many of them prayed for a relative in jail, too. Continue to pray for these children that they learn to know Jesus as a friend and the one who can change their lives. Finding time for the favela family visits is difficult with this new schedule. Pray for one family who moved away from the favela, that they would let God bring healing to their troubled marriage. Keep remembering the Madeiras.

Hello and blessings from **Marlin and Sherry Leaders** in Texas. They thank us for partnering with them to train students to reach people in their own languages. The Leaders family was delighted to meet Kyle’s girlfriend, Amber, last summer. On New Year’s Eve, Amber’s birthday, the two were engaged and are making plans for a wedding in May. Son, Jonathan, enjoys his job at DreamWorks Animation studios. The Leaders visited him in Los Angeles recently, saw his workplace and friends, and toured all of his favorite places, museums, gardens, mountains, coastal drives and beaches—a wonderful trip. Marlin has been editing a Bulo Stieng

dictionary that the Haupers (our former missionaries and Sherry's parents) had made. There are other materials too, that Marlin wishes to make available to Stieng speakers. Marlin's two eye surgeries went well, but a side effect was the development of cataracts. The first will be removed from his right eye March 22nd. Be in prayer for a quick and complete recovery.

**John and Sharon Stacknik** have fully returned to CHAFI, but because of their service since 1981 and the last 8 or 9 years of concern with their daughter, the Board considers them on sabbatical through the end of the summer. Their priorities and prayer requests are these: Resolution regarding their daughter's future pathway; Longer term housing resolution by Easter; Resolution concerning a health plan (emergency temp. plan for now); Structure and choices beyond Easter throughout sabbatical; Prayer for clear direction that CHAFI will take by end of summer (possibly back to original roots of immigrant and refugee housing); Finances through the end of summer (Sharon currently looking for an RN position in WI). Thanks to the Warren Park church family for our goodness.

From the Pettys, who are fellow workers with GEM, I heard about that mission's 40 Days of intense, focused prayer for Europe during Lent until Easter. They are joining in prayer with 1,200 Kingdom workers all across Europe. We could pray along with them and at the same time remember the **Fasolds, Franks, and Bowmans** in Spain and **Gloria Ginn** in the Czech Republic as well.

Donna Tulach  
Missions Chairman