

FRIENDLY VISITOR

The Newsletter of the Warren Park Presbyterian Church ~ September 2011

Pastor's Page

Our time at Tyndale House in Cambridge is going well, as I make progress on my commentary on the Psalms. We have even had decent weather, generally speaking, and that has made our time here all the more pleasant. We are aware of your prayers, and we thank you.

Rhonda and I decided that we should visit Oxford, something we have never done, so we spent last weekend in "that other place," as the Cambridge people call it. After a three-hour bus ride, we arrived in Oxford on Friday afternoon to a city much more urban and bustling than quiet, pastoral Cambridge.

Just a few blocks away from our hotel (built in 1660), was an impressive memorial to the Oxford Martyrs, memorializing three great men of the English Reformation: Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer, and Thomas Cranmer. Cranmer was responsible for the Book of Common Prayer, to which our Book of Common Worship is heavily indebted. These three men were burned at the stake in 1555 and 1556, like our "patron saint," Jan Hus, who preceded them by a century and a half with ideas of church reformation. I was personally moved to read the inscription on the memorial a couple of blocks away from the actual site of their martyrdom, which read in part: "to them it was given not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for his sake." I have had the first privilege, but not the second, not that I even want it. Yet, Paul seems to say that the "privilege" of suffering for Christ is part of "believing" in Christ: "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death (Phil. 3:9-11).

Someone had told us that a cross in the pavement on Broad Street marked the exact place where they gave their life for the cause of Christ, so we were determined to find it on Monday morning before we left for Cambridge at noon. After asking several people, we finally found it on the street outside Balliol College. The story is that the fire was so great that it singed the wooden doors of the college, so we went over to inquire, and sure enough, the doors are preserved and on display in one of the college gates.

I wonder what all of this means to a church that is deeply troubled, which has abandoned its reformation faith, and lost its sense of theological direction. A newly formed group called Fellowship (PCUSA) is meeting in Minneapolis on August 25-26, to try to find a way forward for those of us who are concerned about the new ordination standards and our commitment to the authority of Scripture. Since I can't attend because of my work in Cambridge, our Session is sending Elders Joann Tucker and Donna Tulach to represent us. The idea of the meeting began with the prospect of a thousand representatives, and the last I heard there are 1900 registrants. I realize the meeting will be history when you receive this letter, but let us pray for the decisions that are made there.

Rhonda and I will see you, God willing, on September 4, as we gather at the Lord's Table.

In the Savior,
Hassell Bullock

September 2011 at Warren Park

Sundays	Adult Sunday School Class Meets in the Board room	9:00 am
Wednesdays	Neighborhood Bible Study at the Platt's home	7:00 to 8:30pm
Thursday, September 1	Women's Prayer Fellowship Share this special time with us	2:00 to 3:30 pm
Friday, September 2	Neighborhood Movie Night "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"	7:00 pm
Saturday, September 10	Men's Prayer Breakfast	9:30 am
Sunday, September 11	CE Sunday and Fellowship Lunch Hosted by the Deacons	after morning worship

Notes from Eric & Hope Prinkey...

It's all about love

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”

(John 13: 34-35).

Unfortunately, love is not something we can manufacture-you either love someone or you don't. How is it that we can love others then, when we don't always feel loved by them? The only answer lies in the cross of Christ. Christ's life, death and resurrection was the superb act of love. God came in form of the man and died a human death, so that you and I may live. Through the cross God was glorified and his love poured out. And, at the cross we will find that we are greatly loved and in turn that love will empower us to go and love others. If you have not made the decision to believe in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, there is no better time than now. And, if you have, we invite you to set aside time to worship God for all He has done for you through Jesus. The more you draw near to Him, the more you will know His love.

What is The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe?

Whether you have or haven't read CS Lewis's children's books or seen the movie Narnia, we invite you to come out and be renewed by this whimsical adventure. We will be watching it September 2nd at 7pm for our monthly Neighborhood Movie Night. Refreshments provided.

Family Fun Fair Was Much Fun Indeed!

Thank you to all who volunteered of their time and efforts. It was wonderful to get to spend more time with our church family and to get to know the neighborhood more. Also, many seeds of the Gospel were planted that day. Pray that they will continue to grow!

Afterschool Program for Children is in the Works

Stay tuned for more information on this program in the weeks ahead. If you would like to be put on an email list of events for children, please email Eric at eprinkey@warrenparkchurch.org.

Want to check what time service is on Sunday or what movie we are showing for Neighborhood Movie Night this month?

Our new website is up and running. It has up-to-date events, contact information for church staff, digital copies of The Friendly Visitor and many other things. When you have a moment, go check it out: www.warrenparkchurch.org.

Mission Report

Sharon and John Stacknik tell us they will stay in Eau Claire near their daughter, Myra, until the end of this year. John works 3 or 4 days each week in Minneapolis as Director of CHAFI. The International Christian Literature Distributors and the RDI (Renewed Dwellings, Inc.) invite his collaboration as well. In Eau Claire John and Sharon spend time praying, and then writing proposals for CHAFI's future structure and recruiting individuals and churches to partner in their urban ministry. Pray for God's leading and blessing as these plans take shape. Sharon began a per diem nursing job in nearby Bloomer, WI the first of August. Their daughter, Myra, also began a part-time job in a grocery store and moved into an apartment this month. She attends church and small groups and seeks wholesome friends. Daughter Angela's health is improving; but keep praying for her sister, Myra. Daughter, Hannah, is expecting a baby in September. Vanessa still lives in Minneapolis. Keep this family in prayer.

Paul and Ruth Philippi thank us for our prayer and support, especially prayer for Ruth's health. A recent colonoscopy showed the questionable area has completely cleared up. The Lord is blessing their outreach through the Women's Bible study in their home. Ten women usually come and last week a new lady, Miriam, came with her friend and seems very interested. This past week Paul preached the funeral for Elias, a member of the local church. Pray for this man's unsaved family members. Be in Prayer with them for the elections in Guatemala in September for President, members of Congress and mayors throughout the country. Campaigning is sometimes violent and there have been political murders. Pray for an honest and good government to be voted in and that the mission work can go forward.

Misha and Gina Zverev tell of waiting on the Lord. They have had some interested seekers but have not been able to sell their home. In the meantime, OM Canada seems to have questions regarding immigration and visa processing, etc. and has basically said to wait and pray. They wonder if this is just a pause or a shut door and ask for our prayers for the future. Misha fills an important need at OM USA working in the Short-Term Mission area. He has been coordinating Transform, 2011, a mission in countries bordering the Mediterranean. The Zverev's are growing in the Lord and feel at peace. The small church they had attended disbanded earlier this year and they are attending a larger church and wondering what their niche should be. They seek to gain friends and encourage the other members. Alisa will enter Kindergarten this fall. She is currently involved in a program of physical therapy for toe-walking, which if not improved may require surgery. Be in prayer for them as they wait on God's leading.

Gloria Ginn says that summer is a quieter season with fewer weekly activities. An electrician fixed many small things about the building. Work will be done on doors and locks; and plans are in the works for one or two closets for storing the church plant materials, musical instruments and children's teaching supplies. Gloria even spent time weeding the garden. Two recent activities were a grill party in the back yard and a game night for Bible study students. Gloria attended the GEM Mission conference in Poland. She's happy that it was held in a Slavic country this year because she can understand over half of the language. Pray for the work on the building and for the fall plans and leaders.

Wayne and Kitty Gute praise the Lord for a lovely weekend anniversary celebration with so many of their family, several grandchildren and two great grands. They thank everyone for their prayers and cards.

Donna Tulach,
Missions Chairman

A Prayer from the Christian Education Committee

Thank you, God, for giving us a summer filled with joy and beauty, laughter, friendship and fun. You know we enjoyed eating your nourishing food around breakfast and indoor picnic tables filled with good family conversations. And oh, how we marveled at your beautiful creation as we saw the loveliest flowers and swans thriving in your sunshine gardens, and how we gratefully relaxed in the shade of your tall trees at Cantigny's band shell. You are so good!

You wrapped your loving arms around us as we celebrated your abundant gifts to us in word and song and art at your camp. You sent such enthusiastic young people to encourage us to share your salvation story and your love with our neighbors at the Fun Fair, and you gave energy and strength to the rest of us so that we almost kept up with them. You are so gracious!

Now we ask for your guidance for all of your children heading back to school and for all of us who still delight to be called your children to find your ways to keep learning, to keep growing, to keep serving in this fall season. We praise you!

Amen.