

FRIENDLY VISITOR

The Newsletter of the Warren Park Presbyterian Church ~ June 2011

Pastor's Page

With a sad heart I share with you the news that Amendment 10-A has passed in enough presbyteries (87) to become law in the Presbyterian Church (USA). So our denomination has joined other mainline denominations in America and Europe in opening the way for practicing homosexuals to be ordained to the offices of the church. Each congregation and presbytery will decide for itself whether or not they will follow this practice or the more restrictive (and biblical!) practice of requiring fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman, and chastity in singleness. This "local option," as it is called, sounds quite practical, but in effect it will become very problematic, especially when one congregation ordains gays and another will not recognize their ordination, or when one presbytery ordains a person living in a homosexual relationship and another does not, especially when one of these persons wants to transfer from his or her presbytery to another that that does not follow the practice of his or her presbytery. Then the battles will begin. The future is not very bright for the peace and unity of the church.

While our Session has discussed this matter briefly, we have not approved any resolutions, so I cannot speak for them—though I know they have grave concerns—but I can speak for myself. First, this development calls us to renewed faithfulness to the Word of God, recognizing that these are theologically treacherous times, and that such renewal is not easy in an unbelieving world. Yet, we can't afford to flinch on the absolute authority of Scripture, which the Reformers taught and lived by. If any of you are interested in reading the sermon series I preached a year ago on the "Five Solas of the Reformation," you can let our secretary know, and I will make them available to you. One of those, of course, is *Sola Scriptura*, "Scripture Alone" is our authority.

Second, hundreds of people—thousands even—are looking for a way forward in this difficult climate of theological change and biblical unfaithfulness. The *Fellowship PC(USA)* is a renewal group spawned by this crisis, now with at least 550 signatories (pastors and laity), and the steering committee has called for a special meeting in Minnesota on August 25-26. We are hoping that one or two of our Session members will be able to attend. Unfortunately, I will be in Cambridge working on my Psalms commentary, and cannot attend. There is some question whether the direction of the *Fellowship* will be departure from the denomination or a survival strategy within the denomination. The latest letter from them is inclined toward the latter. Nobody, however, knows quite how that will work, or whether in fact it will work.

Third, as a congregation we need to renew our efforts to grow in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, and continue pouring ourselves into this local ministry of the gospel to which the Lord has called us. We can already hear the wind of the Spirit blowing through the trees as God calls us to a new phase of our ministry and church life. The one thing we can be confident about is that God will not leave us or forsake us. So let us be of good courage. Our Savior has overcome the world.

Hoping in Christ,
Hassell Bullock

June 2011 Calendar

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, June 2	Women's Prayer Fellowship	2:00 pm
Friday, June 3	Family Movie Night A movie and popcorn in Fellowship Hall	7:00 pm
Saturday, June 11	Men's Prayer Breakfast	9:30 am
Sunday, June 12	Strawberry Social	after morning worship
Wednesday, June 22	Annual Indoor Picnic Brats and hotdogs provided Bring side dishes to share Come and enjoy!	6:00 pm

Notes from Eric & Hope Prinkey...

Just as there are many new smells in the air and colors for our eyes to see during this awakening of nature, so there are many new things blossoming at Warren Park these days. For one, we kicked off our monthly **Neighborhood Movie Night** on May 6th. We were pleased to not only see our church family there, but to see many from our sister church, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, and even some guests from the surrounding community. We enjoyed the movie “Up” on a huge, cinema-like screen while we ate popcorn. We left with great joy in our hearts, not only from the light-hearted movie, but from the excitement of what God did and is going to do through this monthly event. If you missed it on May 6th, don’t worry, there will be another one on June 3rd from 7-9pm.

Another new thing at Warren Park this spring is our **Young Families Social**. It’s a time for the younger people in the congregation to hang out, talk about spiritual truths and learn from one another. The group currently meets once a month for a potluck, but plans on meeting more often for family-friendly outings in the area.

And, we have many things brewing for children. This July, we are going to offer an **Arts Camp** for pre-school to elementary aged children once a week. Our theme will be “Celebrating God’s Gifts” and members of our church will be teaching the children various arts and crafts projects. There will also be a **Family Fun Fair** on July 30th.

As you can see, there are many new and exciting things happening during this season for Warren Park. If you are not currently involved in this our legacy, we invite you to reconnect with us as we pursue the heart of God in these changing times. Do not miss this opportunity to be a part of history.

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Have you read one of the Power for Living papers? They are on the back table each Sunday morning; take one before you leave. Each issue contains a story telling of the experience of a Christian as God works in his or her life. Three recent issues were about God at work in lives during the Iraq war. They are thought-provoking and uplifting.

Mission Report

Paul and Ruth Philippi were glad to share in the CAM centennial celebration in Antigua at the end of April. The week long festivities began with a symbolic 10-hour torch carrying from Puerto San Jose to Antigua. All the churches in the province joined together to plan the occasion. After the Sunrise service there was a 10-kilometer marathon open to the public in hopes that many would stay to hear the gospel. A 250-voice choir held a special concert at the stadium. Paul provided transportation to a Mexican Evangelistic speaker for the week. A special children's event was held at a city stadium with clowns, piñatas and surprises. During this same time Paul and Ruth marked 55 years of service in Guatemala. Paul Jr. was one year old when they traveled by car, flatbed railcar and finally dirt road for 200 miles to Guatemala City. We praise them for those years of ministry. The Philippi's thank us for our part in their work. Keep Ruth in your prayers. We are waiting to hear more news of her recent colon problem.

Gloria Ginn was busy this spring running two language camps. They were well attended and gave a chance to present the gospel and build relationships with students. She tells of starting to hold services at the community center in Medlanky the week before Easter. There were 74 people at the first service. Some were those who had participated in various activities held throughout the year. They meet at the center twice each month and at the ministry center for the other weeks. Please continue to pray for this new venture and all who are involved in the service. They are excited to see how God is working. For Easter they met to hear the real story of Easter. The Czechs have a tradition of baking a lamb-shaped cake. Someone brought a lamb cake and Gloria asked why a lamb?-- many didn't know. In Czech, the word for 'Passover' and 'Easter' is the same— Velikonoce. She told of the sacrifice of the lamb before the Children of Israel were rescued from Egypt. Then she read from the New Testament that Jesus is God's lamb sacrificed for our sins. Other activities this spring include another Physics show presented by Tomas for 150 people. The Project K12 Archery Class gives more contacts with men in the community. Pray for work in Brno.

Ernie and Lois Lee celebrated Ernie's 80th Birthday (March 23) at a party in Dallas on May 14th with their family and many friends. Their children include Dan, Joel, Ben, Karen and Tina. There were light refreshments and cake, but more importantly there was a sharing of memories and blessings. We added our good wishes in a card with some memories of the Lee's past WPPC visits to be shared on that special day. Congratulations Ernie and best wishes and prayers for many more good years. Wish we could all have been there.

John and Sharon Stacknik thank us for keeping in touch with them and for our prayers for the work of CHAFI. Their thanks to Delores N. for a card and tract. They were happy to have the privilege of traveling to North Dakota and British Columbia in May to see their daughters. What a trip that must have been! They remain in Eau Claire temporarily and still need prayer for the direction of CHAFI in the coming year.

Elias and Julie Madeira tell of a Brazilian missionary who came to Sao Paulo for training and offered to help with the children's club for a week. The next Bible club lessons will be about Joshua. The Madeira's work with the school in their church has given them opportunities to meet more young families which enlarges the outreach of their favela family visitation ministry. At school Julie has been teaching 5-year-olds to write and says it is increasing her own ability to write in Portuguese as well. Elias enjoys sharing his knowledge of gardening with the children. Please pray with them about funds for the school. Funds coming from Compassion International in the past will be cut off in June and the school will need additional help. The Madeiras have signed more and still more paperwork regarding the apartment and are hopeful to be moving in soon. They trust that property ownership will strengthen Elias's prospects of obtaining a visa and eventually it will enable them to make a visit to the States.

Both **Jim and Carolyn Fasold** often team teach at seminars throughout Spain. In late May we prayed for Carolyn as speaker of an upcoming women's conference of churches from four Basque Provinces. Her ministry often includes counseling the women as well. Last February the Fasolds were invited to speak to 200 pastors at a seminary in Ethiopia and were blessed. Pray with them about visiting a Baptist seminary in Liberia in June 3-22. Jim will help the Academic Dean set up policies

and organizational structures for a more efficient department. He will advise the Director in the area of raising funds. He needs to be aware of the differences in the culture from American or Spanish with which he is familiar and asks for prayer. We're glad to hear of all the ways Jim and Carolyn use their experience to further the cause of Christ. For preparation of the book on Hermeneutics (correct interpretation of the Bible) he is planning to write, Jim visited a library of a Protestant Seminary in Spain. Most of the information he found available to students in Spanish is written by Roman Catholics or liberal Protestants. Only English speakers can get good evangelical books. Jim has been working on the project for nearly a year and is close to completing the research stage. Pray for him as he begins to write this book to help future pastors.

As I finish this article I wonder if the **Drakes** spent or will spend time in Uganda again this year...what progress the **Moore**s and Nishitani Church are making toward building plans in Kobe, Japan... how the **Zverevs** came through the tornados around them while waiting on the Lord. Though we don't know all the needs and blessings God does and even now is working in their hearts and lives and preparing the way for some more people to come to know Him.

Donna Tulach
Missions Chairman

An Invitation

This is to invite all the children of our church to be a part of a new summer program being planned for you. We're calling it Summer Arts Camp -- *Celebrating God's Gifts*. We'll meet on the four Thursdays in July from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Each afternoon you'll get to work with some talented people in our church who will share with you some arts and crafts projects, and then you'll get to try them out, too. It will be a time of creating and learning and exploring and fun. Invite your friends and everyone come!