



# “THE CHIMES”

June 2010

Rev. Christopher Surber, M. Div.

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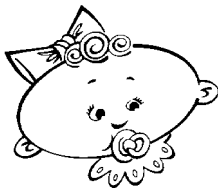
## New Look

We're trying out a new look in our monthly newsletter. We hope this will make for easier readability. Let us know what you think.



BAPTIZED  
UNTO THE  
LORD

Michael and Jennifer Kmetz, along with big sister Emily, presented their son, Kyle Michael, for baptism on May 9, 2010. We pray this wonderful little boy will continually grow in God's loving grace and service to Him.



Pastor Chris & Christina Surber are pleased to welcome into their family Felicity Johanna Rose. Felicity arrived May 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:51 p.m. weighing in at 6 lb. 11 oz. Big brothers Curtis, Sebastian and Ephram are thrilled.



## Wednesday Class

With our summers being so busy, our Wednesday morning 'Christianity in Context'

Class will be suspended for the months of June and July. We'll begin again in August.

## What are Your Spiritual Gifts?

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? To help us learn and develop our talents, Pastor Surber is offering a questionnaire available on the resource table in the narthex. Each of you is encouraged to take it home and honestly answer each question.

Then on June 26<sup>th</sup>, Pastor will hold a Saturday morning session (breakfast included) where he will give a short class on evaluating your responses. This is aimed at helping each of us learn what our gifts are and how best to use them to the glory of God. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Pastor Surber.



The Surber family will be on vacation from Sunday afternoon, June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Should any pastoral needs arise, please call the church office at 815-223-0722.



## New Missionary

The Mission Board is pleased to add our support to 'Peace Mission' organized by Pastor Roy Jacobs which houses and cares for orphan girls in India. We're supporting one girl at \$40

per month to cover her needs. Please add the ministry of Peace Mission to your prayers.



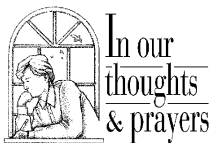
Please keep the Illinois Valley Food Pantry a part of your support. In December, January and February, the pantry served 7,226 people. Last year for the same three months it was 6,578 people. The full report from the Ill. Valley Food Pantry is posted on the Mission Board bulletin board in the entrance hall.



### Looking Ahead

On July 3, 2010, the city of Peru will be celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> year. The First Congregational Church of Peru will be having a float in the parade. Watch your bulletins for information about how you can participate.

We will also have our annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> cookout at 6:30 p.m. prior to watching the city's fireworks from our lawn. Friends and neighbors are invited to join us. Watch your bulletins for details to follow.



**\*\*Pray for the health of Lois & Joe Narog, Thelma Parry, Marge Schumacher, Arthur Dornbusch, Dawn Tieman, Shirley Erlenborn, Don Walker, Larry Bimm, Amy Crouch's father, Gisela Reidies, Clyde Johnson, Margery Steele's sister Genevieve, George Wilkins, Katie's friend Sarah, Tom Spencer, Debbie Round's father Don, Tom Spencer, Don Walker, Steve Hoadley's nephew, Dustin with MD and Joyce Grimes' sister Joann.**

**\*\*Please pray for daily grace for our shut-ins**

Maxine Corgiat Ruth Krueger  
Pauline Vollmer Fannie Loveland  
Marge Schumacher Thelma Parry



### God's 26 Guards

A missionary on furlough told this story while visiting his home church in Michigan.

"While serving at a small field hospital in Africa I traveled every two weeks through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This took two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point. I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from the bank, purchase medicine and supplies and then begin my two day journey back to the field hospital.

Upon arrival, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and talked to him about the Lord. I then traveled two days, camping overnight and arrived home without incident. Two weeks later, I repeated my journey. Arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he knew I carried money and medicine. He said, 'Some friends and I followed you into the jungle knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw you were surrounded by 26 armed guards.' I laughed and said I was certainly all alone. The young man pressed the point saying, 'No, sir, I wasn't the only person who saw the guards. My friends saw them and we counted 26 of them. We were afraid and left you alone.'

At this point in his sermon, a man in the congregation jumped to his feet interrupting the missionary. He asked the exact day that this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date and at this the man told this story: "On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was playing golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. The urging of the Lord was so strong, I called men in this church to meet me

*here and pray for you. Would all of those men who met me that day please stand up?'*

*The missionary wasn't concerned with whom they were, he was too busy counting how many he saw. THERE WERE 26!*

*The Spirit of the Lord moves in behalf of those who love Him.*

*What's Going On in Children's Church*

*June 6 King David*

*June 13 Obedience*

*Jun. 20 Goodness*

*Jun. 27 Honesty*



# JUNE 2010



Jun. 9 Rebecca Tieman  
 Jun. 12 Lillian Mini  
 Gene Grimes  
 Lewis Ebener  
 Sandra Loveland  
 Jun. 21 Pat Marple  
 Jun. 22 Dan Maack  
 Jun. 23 Bob Tieman  
 Jun. 26 Jacque Mahoney

## LITURGISTS

Jun. 6 Dean Tieman  
 Jun. 13 June Holdcraft  
 Jun. 20 Dawn Tieman  
 Jun. 27 Dale Tieman

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SPONSORS

Jun. 6 Diaconate Board  
 Jun. 13 Christian Ed Board  
 Jun. 20 Cookie Bakers  
 Jun. 27 Trustee Board

## CHILDREN'S SERMONS

Jun. 6 Pastor Chris  
 Jun. 13 Dawn Tieman  
 Jun. 20 Pastor Chris  
 Jun. 27 Jane Gabrielse

## TRUSTEE

Dick Ristau

## DIACONATE

Les Tieman

## ACOLYTE

Ashley Heagy



Jun. 4, 1977 Greg & Myra Ristau  
 Jun. 6, 1953 Daryl & Lin Stuhr  
 John & Karen Dergance  
 Jim & Ruth Konrad  
 Jun. 9, 1997 Bill & Shirley Thomas  
 Jun. 18, 1960 Ken & Lynne Rybarczyk  
 Jun. 28, 1941 Harry & Shirley  
 Erlenborn

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH TEACHERS

Jun. 6 Ellen Marincic  
 Jun. 13 Jane Gabrielse  
 Jun. 20 Sharon Zorn  
 Jun. 27 Dawn Tieman

## NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Jun. 6 Sharon Zorn  
 Jun. 13 Ellen Marincic  
 Jun. 20 Jessica Sondgeroth  
 Jun. 27 Nena Janssen

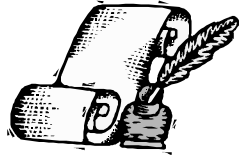
## GREETERS

Jun. 6 Marilyn Dunker  
 & Bev Fallete  
 Jun. 13 Linda Hoadley  
 & Betty Keebler  
 Jun. 20 Frank Harrison  
 & Neal Drummer  
 Jun. 27 Ellen & Hannah  
 Marincic

## USHERS

Dean Tieman, Dick Ristau  
 & Les Tieman

*If you are unable to serve on your appointed Sunday, please call the office at 223-0722*



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

June, 2010

Fellow Pilgrims,

Congregationalist (Later Presbyterian) preacher and scholar, George Arthur Buttrick wrote, “The prayer ‘Thy Kingdom come,’ if we only knew, is asking God to conduct a major operation.” (1892–1980) We have recently taken a journey through the Lord’s Prayer. In this seven part sermon series I have sought to flesh out some of the nuance and more apparent meanings of this mighty prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer contains beautiful prose, deep mysteries, and ideas too vast for complete human comprehension. So does all of life. The world declares the majesty of God in the vastness and complexity of creation. In my recent gardening exploits I have grown fond of saying that “plants want to grow!” I am amazed at the great determination to grow that the tiniest of seed has woven into its composition.

As amazing as this world is, it is also deeply mysterious. Like the Lord’s Prayer the world is filled with mystery. Why should God love creatures as small as we that He would create this world for us to inhabit? Even more so, why should the infinite God of creation love creatures as minute as we that He should reach down so far from His throne to meddle in our sinful affairs?

The world, just as this prayer, is too vast for the human mind to fully comprehend and surely too vast for humanity to completely subdue. At the end of the day we are left with the great need to trust rather than control. An honest observation of the world tells us that we are too small to control it. A plain examination of the Lord’s Prayer leads us to a similar conclusion: *it is trust in the sovereign plan and divine will of God that leads us to ultimate truth, not our ability to attain all truth.*

The Lord’s Prayer is a prayer of abandonment to God’s sovereign reign over the entire world and our entire life. Ultimately the major operation of which Buttrick wrote is the coming return of Jesus Christ to abolish sin, brokenness, and injustice as we know it on this earth. Immediately and individually, that grand operation is God’s work within each one of us.

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus says, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (ESV) Indeed we do well to look forward to the ultimate hope of every believer. Jesus said that He would return to establish His Kingdom in its fullness. In the meantime we also do well to recognize that His Kingdom has taken up residence in our hearts.

The major operation of the Kingdom is the “heart surgery” which happens initially when we trust Christ and every day after that as we learn to depend upon Christ and trust God’s sovereign will more fully as we fall in love with Him more completely.

Precious Saints of God, be encouraged this day by the power of God’s love to transform us daily, each moment, as we cry out to Him and trust Him. Our Heavenly Father not only supplies our daily bread, He also supplies the hope, peace, and joy necessary to face each day as it comes to us! “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17 ESV)

Sincerely In Christ,

Rev. Chris Surber, M.Div.