



Lovilia Circuit Writer



Volume V6

Pastor Jill Leveck

June 2006

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

The boy scout motto is 'be prepared.' By the time you read this, school will be out and, whether we're ready or not, summer will be here. Are you prepared for the extra hours of daylight, the additional time spent outdoors working in the garden, walking, playing, fishing or just enjoying the warmth and color and sounds of the world? Maybe a vacation trip is in the works and you've already started making lists of things you have to do and remember. I find that no matter how many lists I make I usually forget something.

One thing we don't want to leave behind is our sense of wonder; God has made us part of a most incredible world. Take mushrooms for example. I grew up in the city and we were always warned not to eat the round white toadstools that popped up in our yard after a good spring rain. So

when I heard about the mushroom feed at the May United Methodist Men's meeting in Bussey I was skeptical. Anyway, if they were like the limp little pieces that you get from a can, I couldn't see the excitement. And then I tasted mushrooms coated with a mixture of flour and cornmeal, fried in real butter and salted to taste. Oh my!!!

And then there is the wonder of the cherry tree in our front yard. Each bright red cherry contains within itself a seed that can produce a whole tree. God sure knows how to plan.

Just watching the variety of personalities God has planted in His creation is a wonder. Our older daughter Jennifer has two cats in her apartment and they are different as night and day. Addie Ray comes to greet her when she gets back from class and then makes it a point to plop down on the rug with her back to Jennifer to let her know that she did not like her absence one little bit.

And then there is the wonder of a summer storm and the aftermath when everything is so fresh and clean and the birds sing praises to their heavenly Father.

This summer, whether you stay home or journey miles afield, don't forget a childlike sense of wonder at the world God has given us to care for and enjoy. Be prepared to embrace Him and be thankful for it - for gratitude is the proper response to being part of such an incredible world.





Reader's Corner

For more than half a century Billy Graham has preached and lived his faith all around the world and is one of the most respected men of all time. His most recent book entitled *The Journey: How to Live by Faith in an Uncertain World* is a sharing of wisdom gained from a lifetime of study and experience, of working to remain true to his faith and his family.

"Becoming a Christian," he asserts, "takes only a single step; *being* a Christian means walking with Christ the rest of your life." (p.51) It's the 'being' part that serves as the focus for this book. Just about every aspect of life is discussed from finding strength for the conflicts we face to receiving energy to fulfill the purpose for which we were made. The foundation for all of his wisdom comes from Scripture that provides principles for living in terms of relationships, our use of time, parenting skills and even how we approach work.

There is a section on our devotional life. Often our spiritual discipline grows lax as we get caught up in the everyday details of life. In Dr. Graham's words, "Our Bible stays on the shelf; prayer becomes hurried or almost nonexistent; vibrant fellowship with other believers dissolves into passive church attendance; our service to others vanishes." (p.230) But we're not left alone in the valley; Dr. Graham gives us guidelines, lifelines if you will, to help us make our way closer to God.

There is so much of value in this book that it would be good for a discussion group as well as individual learning and enjoyment. I had the library get this book inter-library loan so that I could read it. In both Albia and Bussey they are very helpful in finding a book and getting it to you. Pick up *The Journey...* this summer and a little thinking and a lot of growing.

LUMC News

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUNE

- 3 ~ Lori Hugen
- 5 ~ Scott Allison
- 6 ~ Justin Allison, Jacob Maughan
- 11 ~ Fred & Goldie Kraber (A)
- 12 ~ Carol Allison, Pat Frye
- 15 ~ Phillip Frye
- 16 ~ Marilyn & Charles Kraber
- 21 ~ Ilene Pottorff
- 22 ~ Merlin Newman
- 24 ~ James Lundstrom

YOUTH GROUP

Even on our summer break we are serving. Our group will host a prom for the residents of the Westridge Care Center in Knoxville on Saturday, June 3rd from 2:00-4:00PM. We have made corsages and boutonnieres and will decorate the main room for the theme "Remember When." After dancing to songs like "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" and "A String of Pearls" our after prom party will consist of bingo. Thank you in advance to all who have provided items for bingo prizes and cookies. We appreciate your support.

We are just completing a fundraiser to replenish the youth fund and get a start on the 2007 mission trip in the works for next summer.

FRANKIE VALENS

Details on our special concert here at 6:00PM on June 25th can be found in the Parish section of the newsletter. Frankie and his wife Phyllis will be appearing at a number of churches in the district, most of them larger than our own. Let's really talk this up to friends, neighbors and family and fill our church to overflowing. We will take a special offering for them during the concert.

And don't forget the sandwich and dessert luncheon at 5:00PM right before the concert.

FINANCES

Our offerings for April totaled \$2,341.71. This included \$100 from the UMW (their quarterly contribution) and \$124 from the Sunrise Service. Our monthly expenses average \$2,076.51.

During April, as well, \$2,050 of memorial money to honor Shirley Hugen came in.

Parish News

Bible School - Son Treasure Island

Relax under a palm tree and get in touch with the island rhythms at this year's parish Vacation Bible School that will be held from 9:00-11:00AM Monday, July 25th through Friday, July 29 at the Bussey Church. Rides will be available from the churches in Lovilia and Hamilton.

Uncover the treasure of God's Word and have an island of fun along the way. Watch your July/August newsletter for further details.

We need teachers and helpers- so get your sunglasses on and the island beat in your feet and contact pastor Jill (641-932-5243) or Sarah Williams (641-946-8118) if you would like to help.

Watch for our float in the Bussey parade on the 4th of July.

Frankie Valens Concert

"Remember when rock was young?" intones the oldies song. We have a chance to revisit yesterday and hear 60's and 70's pop singer Frankie Valens and his wife Phyllis who is a wonderful concert pianist and children's songwriter at our very own Lovilia Church on Sunday, June 25th at 6:00PM.

They will share their music (Frankie made famous "This magic Moment" and "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" among others), past and present as well as a very powerful Christian testimony. Pastor Jill has heard them twice before in person and they are fabulous.

Come and join us for a **sandwich and dessert** lunch at 5:00PM in the church basement before the concert. It will truly be a magic moment and one you will not want to miss. Bring a friend or two or three!

Mission Trip – Summer 2007

Would you like to be on a planning committee for our parish wide mission trip tentatively scheduled for next summer? We will need to start meeting soon to plan fund raisers and work out the details of dates, place, etc. Get in on the ground floor and be a part of this effort to put feet and hands and heart on our faith.

United Methodist Men

The wood is here and, after it's treated, a work day will be set up at Ward and Arlene Bonnett's to cut it and get it ready to take down to Missouri so that the PET Mobiles can be completed.

Thank you Sonny Spaur for picking us such a wonderful batch of muchrooms again this year.

School

Due to happenings with my family I will not be taking a class this summer at Denver Seminary but will be working on my second learning contract, an independent study on Celtic prayer and the research methods class I will attend in January.

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Denny Hugen, Thelma Smith, Warren Jones, Donnie Tucker, John Waters, Scott Hugen,

Janet Conner, Dale Allison, Lois Walter, Rylee & Olivia Haas, Donna Keegel, Larry DeGeest, Kristen Simmons, Deann Barnhill, Zibby Kendall, Margaret Conner, Margaret Ann Dunkin, Lois Mahon, Lola Baltzley, Fern Vance, Lucille Boyer, pastor Jill's parents, the family and friends of Bertha Redding.

Beyond the Local Church

Annual Conference

This year Annual Conference will be held June 8-11th in Ames. The theme is "Stewards of Justice - Growing as Generous People." our lay delegate is Goldie Kraber and Rick Hoy is a conference representative. There is much work to be done. We will report what happens when we return. All three churches will have a Gideon speaker on the 11th and a special offering will be taken for the Gideon effort.

UMW School of Christian Mission

July 16-19

The Iowa Valley Continuing Ed Center in Marshalltown is the setting for this summer's school of Christian Mission. "Harvesting Peace" is the theme and Ted Lyddon Hatten will be one of the study leaders.

..:Shortened Version of the 23rd:.. ..:Psalm:..

In his beautiful book, "I Shall Not Want," Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday School teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire 23rd Psalm. A golden-haired, four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands.

A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm. The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."

She bowed again and went and sat down. That may well be the greatest interpretation of the 23rd Psalm ever heard.

Mission Minute

Mission Day

This month's 'minute' will focus on the mission day scheduled at annual conference. Saturday morning, June 10th, we will have an opportunity to bring together faith and works. There will be many choices available for both work and educational opportunities. And you don't have to be a delegate to participate. If you have the morning free and want to be a part of a great mission effort, check the IAUMC website (<http://www.iaumc.org>) and click on mission day to get the details.

You can help build a Habitat house in Ames, Boone or Nevada (\$20,00 of the \$50,000 needed for the materials has already been raised) or a tool shed on site that will be taken back to a habitat location in each district. Or, you can sort and prepare health kits or sort and box food for the Central Iowa food bank. If you prefer, you can write letters to government leaders on issues before the legislature or write letters of encouragement to missionaries around the world.

There are also many workshops available for you to attend that range from church world service to water quality and from children and poverty to prison ministry. I suspect this will be the highlight of the conference this year and you can be a part of it.