

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

Do you want to get well?

Sir the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me..."

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your mat and leave."...

The man was cured and he picked up his mat and left.



John 5: 6-9

Have you ever had a desire to experience God at a deeper level than you do now, to experience God in ways often associated with the term "spiritual transformation?" One thing I do know, "We cannot transform ourselves," but what we can do is to create conditions in which transformation can take place, conditions which keep us open and available to God.

Meister Eckert, an Austrian theologian once said, "The reason we are not able to see God is the faintness of our desire." So how bad do you want it? That was a question I was frequently confronted with by my high school track coach who pushed me toward my Section V goals. And interestingly enough, it is the same question we find Jesus often raising with those seeking his help.

The paralyzed man in the periscope about the healing at the pool was full of excuses, "someone has to pull me up" and then, "someone needs to go into the pool before me." Jesus' response was in essence, "Never mind all that. Stand up, take up your mat and walk." A then in Jesus' presence, the man was able to reach down within himself and find a deeper desire than he ever had before. And somehow this willingness opened up the way for him to experience Jesus' healing power.

Jesus' interactions with the people he came into contact with during his life on earth make it clear that desire and willingness to name that desire in his presence was often the catalyst to experiencing God, to experiencing healing. When Jesus met the paralyzed man at the pool in Bethesda his question about desire was even more pointed, "Do you want to be made well?" In other words, how bad do you want it? Do you want it bad enough to do something about it?

So how might you too, experience healing? Do you want it bad enough to do something about it? If you are, in her book *Sacred Rhythms*, Ruth Haley Barton offers this suggestion, which just might help. First, settle yourself into a comfortable position and allow yourself to enjoy God's presence in the quietness for a moment. Then, imagine yourself in the historical setting of the paralyzed man or perhaps in your own place of need. Read the story (John 5:1-15) seeing yourself as the person who is in need from something from Jesus. Allow yourself the full realization that you have the complete attention of Jesus (because you do) and hear the question addressed to you, "What do you want me to do for you?" Give the question and its response all the time it needs. Take a walk, curl up in a blanket, journal what you feel. If you choose to journal, you might start out with the question, "God what I want/need most from you right now is..." and then let your thoughts flow and just be prepared to soak up the richness that you experience when you find yourself in God's presence.

Have a blessed day and enjoy the journey of opening yourself up to being more open and available to God's presence.

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 am

You can reach Pastor Alan Dailey at (585) 645-9194 or email: dailey2@rochester.rr.com

February



Beef on Wick
February 21st
Serving 4:30
Cost \$8.00

Beef on Wick sandwich, salt potatoes,
baked beans,
Hot Fudge Sundaes with either:
chocolate chip cookie, angel food
cake or brownie

Ash Wednesday Service

February 25th
7:30 pm



Rummage Sale Set Up
March 30 – April 3
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Remember many hands make the
work load lighter.



March

Daylight Savings Begins
Sunday March 8th
Remember to set your clocks
ahead!!!



Roast Pork Dinner

March 21st

Serving: 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Cost: \$8 Adults

\$5 Children (12-5 yr)

Pork, Potatoes, vegetables, rolls,
PIES!!!!

If you can help bring PIES (2 pies per
person), work at the dinner
either in the kitchen or the dining room or
help with the clean-up, *Please* see:

Pam/Tim Gaffney
or Beth/John Hitter



Church Rummage Sale

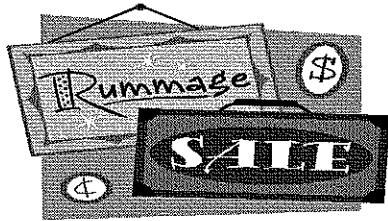
April 4th

*If you have any items you wish to donate to the Church Rummage Sale,
Please contact either John or Beth Hitter @ 494-2944 or leave a
message on the Church's answering machine.*

*Items may be brought to the church and put in the old kitchen
downstairs.*

Thanks

April



April 4th
7:00 am – 2 pm
Bag Sale starts at Noon



Palm Sunday
April 5th



Maundy Thursday Service
April 9th
7:30 pm
With Communion



EASTER



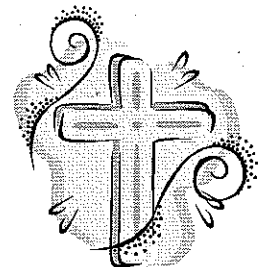
Easter Flowers

If you would like to order Easter Flowers
please see
Gail Speares.



Easter Morning
April 12th

8:00 am Early Service
8:30 am Easter Breakfast
10:00 am Regular Service



Congregation News:



A thank you to our caring friends at Riga Church:

We sincerely want to thank all of you for keeping us in your prayers as we encountered a bump in the road of life. We know that your prayers helped get us through each day while we were experiencing a change in our lives. Yes, it is a life changing experience. Nourishment for our life at this time came to us from your words, your hugs, your tasty home cooking and mostly from your prayers.

God bless all of you.
Judy and Harry

A Big Thank You goes out to all who HAVE or ARE SERVING on Council.

I personally want to thank everyone who has served on Council at one time or another. Without their dedication of time and service we would not be who we are. SO THANK YOU TO ALL.

I also would like to thank Sharon Cameron and Nancy Pimm, for coming on the Board of Deacons; Neil Davis and Sue Dailey, for joining the Board of Trustees, Pam Gaffney for taking on the role of Treasurer, and Linda Williams for continuing her role as Council Clerk. Thanks to the bulletin coordinators: Linda Williams, Judy Wood, Sue Johnson and Shannon Pombert, she stepped in and filled the vacant position. Thanks to Sue Johnson, for keeping our web site up to date and going, Nancy Pimm for all the advertising for the church, Michelle McCarthy as School Superintendent

I know there are others out there that I am forgetting to THANK so this is for YOU!!!!

Beth Hitter, Church Council Leader



John and Beth Hitter received the "U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Certificate of Appreciation" from the United States Army for outstanding support of SGT. Joshua Fregoe. Sgt. Fregoe submitted them for their support and sacrifice as an Army parent.

Congratulations to John and Beth !

Meeting Dates

Trustee Meeting Dates for 2009

(Second Tuesday of Each Month At 7 pm)

Date	Notes
February 10 th	Choose chairperson and planning meeting
March 10 th	
April 14 th	Budget review meeting
May 12 th	
June 9 th	
July 14 th	Budget review meeting
August 11 th	
September 8 th	
October 13 th	Prepare 2010 budget
November 10 th	
December 8 th	

Trustees: Sue Dailey, Neil Davis, Tim Gaffney, Greg Pimm, Dave Yunker, and Harry Wood

Council Dates

February 11th

March 18th

April 22nd

May 20th

June 17th

PLANNING MEETING



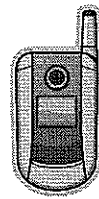
IDENTITY MOMENTS

There are moments in your life that make you and set the course of who you are going to be. Sometimes they're little, subtle moments. Sometimes, they're big moments you never saw coming. No one asks for their life to change, but it does. It's what you do afterwards that counts. That's when you find out WHO YOU ARE!!

Advice to the Pastor:

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending;
and to have the two as close together as possible.

George Burns



Cell Phone Numbers Go Public next month

REMINDER.... all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sale calls..

.... YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS if they are not on your plan!!

To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222.

It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years.

You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number.

Town of Riga Bicentennial Opening

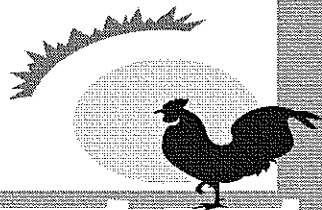
On Sunday afternoon, January 4, 2009, the Town of Riga had their Bicentennial Opening Ceremony at the town hall.

Pastor Alan did the invocation to open up the program. Town and County politicians were present along with town historian Ron Belczak and many other Town of Riga people.

The ceremonies included handing out of commemorative full size flags with 15 stars and 15 stripes on it. Our church was presented one of these flags because of it being the first church in the town of Riga. The flag will be flown outside the church this coming spring helping to celebrate the town's Bicentennial.

Proudly representing our church at the ceremonies was Alan and Sue Dailey, Linda Williams, Nancy Pimm, Harry and Judy Wood and Tim Speares who is on the Riga Bicentennial Committee. There are several events planned for the upcoming year to celebrate the Bicentennial and our church will continue to play a part in them.

'Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, Lord,' and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good Lord, it's morning.'





NAILS IN THE FENCE

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all.

He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, 'You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. But it won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound will still be there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Remember that friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us.'

BELIEF AND FAITH ARE DIFFERENT

People sometimes use the words "belief" and "faith" as if they are synonyms. They do have much in common, but they are different, as well.

Imagine that you are at a circus. A skilled high-wire artist has accomplished many marvelous feats that inspire awe in the audience. Then the ringmaster addresses the crowd: "Ladies and gentlemen, if you believe that this daring man can ride safely over the high wire on his bicycle while carrying someone on his shoulders, please raise your hand." Seeing an almost unanimous vote of confidence, the ringmaster then says, "Very well, then, now who would like to be the first to volunteer to sit on his shoulders?"

The difference between belief and faith is the difference between raising your hand and getting on the high-wire artist's shoulders. Faith is not passive or merely intellectual. To believe in God all you need say is, "True," but to have faith in God you must go on to say, "Yes."

Belief, in itself, is not enough. We may believe that God "has the whole world in his hands," but faith is the act of trust by which we put ourselves into God's hands. The real synonym for faith is "trust." You can sit back and believe, but faith requires that you get out of your seat. Faith is the active expression of trust.

Council and Committee Leaders

PASTOR

Alan Dailey

Council Leader

Beth Hitter

Deacons

Shannon Pombert
Rick Hoyt
Gail Speares
Sue Johnson
Nancy Pimm
Sharon Cameron

Trustees

Harry Wood
Dave Yunker
Tim Gaffney
Greg Pimm
Sue Dailey
Neil Davis

Treasurer

Pam Gaffney

Clerk

Linda Williams

Director of Music

Cheryl Toyama

Sunday School Superintendent

Michelle McCarthy

Youth Group

Pastor Alan/Sue Dailey

UCC/GVA Representative

Sue Dailey

Mission Committee

Frank Pombert

Advertising Coordinator

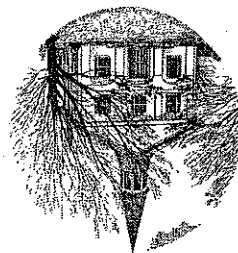
Nancy Pimm

Bulletin Coordinators

Sue Johnson
Shannon Pombert
Linda Williams
Judy Wood

Newsletter Coordinator

Beth Hitter



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