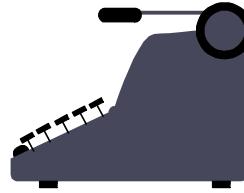


# Walking in Faith

FEBRUARY 2004

## POTHOLES IN THE PATH OF FAITH: THE LIFE & TIMES OF PERCY THE PIGEON



### Notes from the Edge of the Desk

I fell in love with the movie, "Sea Biscuit". Everyone at the theater (six evidently unemployed ne'er-do-wells or a half-a-dozen pastors - it's hard to tell the difference without a definitive test, like asking them to try to limit their commentary to three minutes: the ones who can and will do that are just your run-of-the-mill ne'er-do-wells...) told me afterwards that the book was even better, and they were right. It's the story of an undersized horse - written off by everyone - which becomes a racing legend. It's an amazing history that inspires one to strive to accomplish that which might seem impossible in one's life.

But to tell you the truth, most days, I identify more easily to Percy the Pigeon. Percy flopped down exhausted in a Sheffield, England loft, having beaten 1,000 rivals in a 500 mile race. Unfortunately, Percy was subsequently & immediately eaten by a cat. The 90 minute delay in finding his remains and handing his identification tag to the judges relegated Percy from first to third place. This is also a true story, but I'm willing to bet that it will never inspire a book that will spend 20 odd weeks near the top of the New York Times' best seller list. And the movie will probably be released immediately to video...

There was a day not long ago that I awoke at 6:15 in the morning, brimming with delusions of adequacy. But it was not going to be an easy day. I couldn't find the computer discs I needed to complete a project, despite an extensive search. I convinced myself that I had left them in my office at Harcourt, so I rushed back... no discs. Convinced now that I had truly lost them, and that they would eventually show up in a Black Market behind a fish canning operation in the most sinister nether regions of Thailand, I returned to Boxholm, only to find them hiding under a single sheet of paper in the center of my desk there. But my notes were now on my desk in Harcourt. In a flash of revelation, I suddenly knew that my employment with Countryside Cooperative was depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

If you don't have these days - when it seems your IQ is hovering somewhere around room temperature, and if you were any more stupid, you'd have to be watered twice weekly - DON'T TELL ME! Part of the comfort that is mine is in the theory that everyone has these days, and weeks, and seasons. I have spoken with a number of people lately who feel as I do - that circumstances have conspired to do their worst to our already fragile egos. Who would have thought the path of faith would have so many potholes?!

Someone sent me an e-mail with the following prayer:

### Inside this issue:

<i>Faith Council Minutes</i>	2
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	
<i>Cooperative Worship</i>	
<i>February Schedule</i>	2
<i>Serving Faith in Dec.</i>	
<i>Soup &amp; Bake Sale</i>	3
<i>Ice Cream Sunday</i>	
<i>Cookbooks</i>	
<i>Lenten Schedule</i>	3
<i>Adult Bible Study</i>	
<i>WELCA News</i>	4

## SERVING COFFEE IN FEBRUARY

8th— Mason Bahr  
15th— Don & Jo Peterson  
22nd— Co-op Worship  
29th— Duane & Doris  
Peterson



*Continued on Page 3*

# Faith Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council met on January 5 with 9 members and Pastor Rod present. Pastor Rod led devotions from Chicken Soup for the Soul. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance in checking of \$3241.82. There is a CD for \$5000 due the third week in January. We received \$10,480.50 from the sale of stocks received from Dallas Carlson. This money has been placed in the Mission Investment checkbook fund. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the treasurer's report.

John reported that the present copier machine is in need of repair. He has visited with Advanced Systems, Inc. regarding this. Motion made and seconded that we purchase a new copier at a cost of \$1025 after a trial period to determine workability of the copier.

Pastor Rod reported that the Annual Meeting will be held January 25, 2004. Denny Freed has requested a transfer of membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Florida where he is now residing.

A discussion was held regarding renovation/remodeling projects. The following committees were formed:  
 Kitchen Renovation: Jan Peterson, Cheryl Meyer, Marsha Samuelson  
 Sanctuary Remodeling: Pastor Rod, Eddie Peterson, Connie Gustafson, and Scott Engquist

The Nomination Committee for this year is Rollie Gustafson, Brad Lambert, Eddie Peterson. Scott reported that we have received a painting from Kevin Nelson. Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully submitted,  
 Dorothy Nahnsen



## December Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,271.87
December Deposits	\$ 3,894.71
December Expenses	<u>- 6,924.76</u>
Balance 12/31/03	\$ 3,241.82

## Cooperative Worship

On Sunday, February 22, all six congregations will be worshipping together at Zion beginning at 10:00 am. A ham ball dinner will follow the service. A free will offering will be accepted for the dinner. All members are encouraged to attend this meaningful service. There will be no services or Sunday School at Faith on the 22nd.

## February Schedule

- February 1      Worship with Communion 9 am-Coffee
- February 2      Church Council 7:30 pm Refreshments, Scott Engquist
- February 4      Confirmation 6:30 pm at Trinity
- February 5      Choir 7:30 pm
- February 7      Soup Lunch & Bake Sale 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- February 8      Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee
- February 11     Confirmation 6:30 at Faith
- February 12     Choir 7:30 pm
- February 15     Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee
- February 18     Confirmation 6:30 pm at Trinity  
 Cooperative Choir Practice at Zion 7:30
- February 19     Martha Group 2 pm at Arlene Hintch home  
 Sarah Group 6:30 pm-church Hostess: Marsha Samuelson
- February 22     Cooperative Worship 10:00 am at Zion
- February 25     Ash Wednesday Service at Faith 7:30 pm with Trinity  
 Choir 8:30 pm
- February 26     Quilt Day 1:00 pm
- February 29     Worship 9:00 am-Sunday School-Coffee

## Serving Faith

**Ushers-** Grant Gibbons &  
 Jeff Peterson

**Communion Assistants-**  
 Kari Bahr & Jan Peterson

**Altar & Greeter-** Jan Peterson

**Altar Flower Sponsor-**  
 Irene Peterson  
 In Memory of Maurice Peterson  
 And Ruby Harrison

## Soup Lunch & Bake Sale

On Saturday, February 7th the Ladies of Faith are hosting a Soup Lunch & Bake Sale from 11:00 AM-1:00 pm at the church. Bean, Vegetable Beef and Chili soups will be served with relish, pie, bars and beverages, A free will offering will be taken. A Bake Sale will be held with a large selection of baked goods including rye bread, angel food cakes and many more delicious items. Everyone is invited to attend!

## Cookbooks

Due to an the success of our Cooperative Cookbooks , 750 more books have been ordered. If you are interested in extra copies or know someone who is, please leave your name, number of books needed and phone number with Cheryl or Marsha. The books are expected to arrive in time for our Cooperative Worship Service on February 22.

## Ice Cream Sunday

On Sunday, February 22nd, the members of Trinity are hosting a benefit for the Clayton Groff Family from 3-5:30 pm at the church. Ice Cream Sundaes will be served and a free will offering will accepted for the Groff Family . Additional funds will be provided by Thrivent.

*Continued from Page 1*

"So far today, Lord, I have done all right. I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I am very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I am going to get out of bed. And from that point on, I am probably going to need a lot more help. Amen."

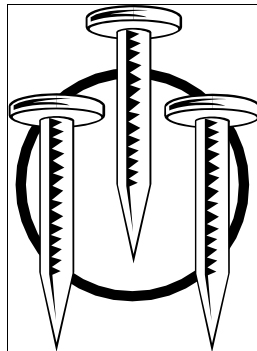
It's a good reminder that prayer can re-frame a day. Prayer can put it in a new context and help us to see that most of what frustrates us is not that important at all: it certainly isn't worth the price of the joy that Christ came to give us.

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:9 & 11)

Have a good day! Really!  
rod

## Lenten Schedule

On Wednesday, February 25th the season of Lent will begin. Ash Wednesday Services will be held at Faith at 7:30 pm together with Trinity. Refreshments will follow the service. Choir will meet from 8:30 –9:00 pm. On Wednesday, March 3rd, the soup suppers will begin. Persons are needed to sign up to bring soup. Pastor Rod is asking members to share their favorite Bible verse with him to use for the study of the services during Lent. You can leave your verse in Pastor Rod's mailbox and it does not need your name.



## Adult Bible Study

Beginning Thursday, February 26th, and Thursdays during lent, Pastor Rod will be leading a group studying the book "A Purpose Driven Life". The Trinity Group invites you to participate. The class (discussion & tapes) will be from 7:30-8:30 followed by about 40 minutes of food! Rod needs to know by February 18th if you would like to attend. The cost of the book is \$10; couples may share a book. Members of Faith would enjoy the camaraderie of this group, & Rod can provide a ride, if that would be more convenient.



**Faith Lutheran  
Church**

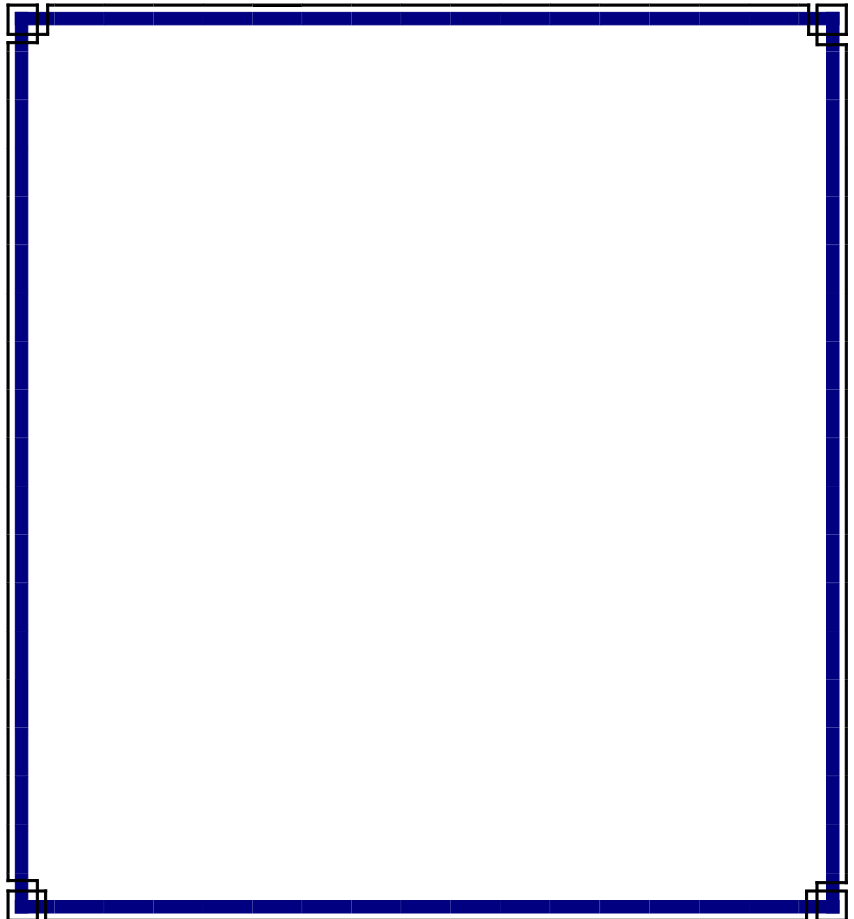
Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA  
PO Box 68  
113 North Ash St.  
Harcourt, Iowa

Church Phone: 515-354-5225  
Pastor's Phone: 515-354-5224

Walking in Faith



**Contact us by e-mail  
rodmeyer@lvcta.  
com**



# WELCA NEWS

## February WELCA News 2004

The year has started out great! The 2004 WELCA books are done – thank you, Marsha, for all the hard work, & thanks to all who have volunteered to serve.

Cookbooks were a great success, and – yes – we have re-ordered 750 of them. They should be here by the Co-op Service. Remember that the Cooperative Service is February 22, 2004 at 10 a.m., with a Ham Ball Dinner following. Mark your calendars – it is a special occasion.

February 7<sup>th</sup> is the WELCA Bake Sale & Soup Lunch. Bake good are needed for the sale – we appreciate your donations.

### Upcoming Events:

Feb. 19	2 p.m.	Martha Circle meets at Arlene Hintch's home
Feb. 19	6:30 p.m.	Sara Circle meets at the church for a light supper & Bible Study – Marsha Samuelson, Hostess

February Altar Service & Greeter – Jan Peterson

Cheryl Meyer