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June 2011

It has been quite a spring season -- wet for us but tragic for so many in the South and Midwest. It's hard to complain about our weather when we hear the news of yet another deadly tornado ripping apart a whole community.

Let's remember to pray for those in Joplin, Missouri, and other places in the US that have experienced the terror of a tornado. This season over 500 people have died from tornadoes (something this nation hasn't seen since 1953), with April seeing over 800 tornadoes!

On a more positive note, I send greetings with thanksgiving from Jonathan and Sarah Purnell. Their wedding was beautiful and Third Church was well represented by the Whitmans the Calamarases and the McAuleys.

For this month's newsletter I wanted to bring you up to date on some happenings in the Presbyterian Church (USA). You may recall that back in the January newsletter I wrote of some significant votes being taken by Presbyteries throughout the country in response to proposals from last year's General Assembly.

The three major proposals to be voted on involve:

1. A reformatting of the "Book of Order";
2. The inclusion of a new confessional statement within our "Book of Confessions" (the Belhar Confession);
3. The elimination of what has come to be known as the "fidelity and chastity" amendment in the Book of Order (G-6.0106b). With the elimination of that statement comes the inclusion of a new, general (and vague) statement (known as amendment 10A) regarding qualifications for serving in an ordained ministry in the church.

As I stated in my January article, I do not support any of those changes, although I am not opposed to a reformatting of the "Book of Order." In the case of that reformatting, which appears to have passed, I just think some of the new wording is weak in its theology -- lacking clarity of position (But then that seems to be the intention in much contemporary theology -- to be so vague in one's declarations that what is said can mean almost anything (and in turn say nothing!).).

Unfortunately, at this point in the voting process we know that Amendment 10A has passed. With the lack of specificity regarding "fidelity" within the marriage relationship between one man and one woman, and chastity outside the marriage relationship, the Presbyterian church no longer has a clear statement in its "Book of Order" denying the appropriateness of self-affirmed, practicing homosexuals serving as officers in the church. In turn, the door has been opened wide for the full inclusion of practicing homosexuals within the leadership of the church. In other words, the church's position has shifted from loving all people (including homosexuals) while helping all to live a life of godliness in obedience to God's Word (which clearly calls homosexual behavior sin), to redefining what is and isn't sin based upon personal preferences or cultural norms.

Now we need to be clear, the passing of Amendment 10 A doesn't require a church to ordain anyone that it doesn't believe is fit for office. And so if a particular church believes it is a sin to actively engage in homosexual activity, that church is under no pressure to ordain such practitioners into office in that church. But even with that freedom of conscience, it is clear that the church is drifting from its moorings in the Word of God. [Note: In its constitutional statements, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has never denied membership, or even ordination, to those who may have been practicing homosexuals in the past but who have repented of that sinful behavior and have sought to walk a life of godliness in Christ. At the same time, like all people who struggle with sin, the church understands that those who feel the pull toward homosexuality are engaged in a deep spiritual, emotional, physical and relational struggle. And sometimes they sin in that struggle -- as we all do in our own struggles. The key issue here for me is that the PCUSA as a denomination is no longer calling a particular behavior sin that the Bible clearly (despite the attempts by many to twist the Scriptures) calls sin, but instead is giving it the status of "acceptable behavior".]

The passing of Amendment 10 A will have major ramifications in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and your elders will be spending time in study and prayer to determine what the implications of the passage of this amendment will have on the life, ministry and associations of Third Church.

Regarding the Belhar Confession, for that to pass will require a 2/3's majority (as opposed to a simple majority of over half) since that will involve a change to our "Book of Confessions". At this point the voting is too close to determine which way it will go – there are still many Presbyteries that have not yet voted on this proposal.

I will be sharing more about these changes to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the future. In the mean time, if you would like to do some of your own study on the issues facing the Presbyterian Church (USA) I would encourage you to go to the website of "Presbyterians for Renewal" (just 'Google' PFR and the site will show up as one of the options).

Please pray for our Denomination, our local Presbytery (Albany), and for our church as we consider our place in the life of the PCUSA.

And may God's grace and peace be with you in the coming days.

Love in Christ Jesus,

John McAuley

PS: We had a wonderful graduation (for the 4 year olds) and moving up (for the 3 year olds) celebration on Thursday, May 26, 2011. On behalf of all the families I send thanks to all the members of Third Church for the support you give to this ministry that enables us to open our doors and serve our community through the "Community Nursery School." A special thanks to Diane Carroll, Ann Dwyer, Tricia Lammon, Sue Laz, Andy Miller, and Peggy Siracusa for all their work in making this past year a special time for the children.

Church Anniversary

Believe it or not, next summer we will celebrate 50 years of worshipping in our current building. The first worship service was held on June 3, 1952. The Upward Ministry Committee is already thinking about how we should celebrate this milestone. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to help with the planning, please speak with Sue Laz or Vera Whitman.

Those Serving this Month:

June 5th

Greeters: Bob Klein and Bill Multunas
 Head Greeter: Bob Somerville
 Lay Leaders: Pat Gilmaier and Abby McAuley
 Fellowship Hosts:

June 12th Greeters: Mike and Matt Giddings
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
 Lay Leaders: Jerry Whitman, Joshua Multunas
 Fellowship Hosts: Pentecost Church Picnic

June 19th
 Greeters: Andy Miller and Pat Gilmaier
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller
 Lay Leaders: Joshua Multunas, James McAuley
 Fellowship Hosts:

June 26th
 Greeters: Jennifer and Abby McAuley
 Head Greeter: Michele Reynolds
 Lay Leaders: Bill and Christian Multunas
 Fellowship Hosts:

Those Serving Communion

June 12th - Vera, Andy, Alice, and Bill
June 26th - Jerry, Deena, Dean, and Doris
July 10th - Natalia, Pat, Rob and Steve

June Birthdays

6/1 Bob Somerville
 6/6 Marilyn Gibbs
 6/6 Wendy Jensen
 6/10 Christian Multunas
 6/11 Pat Gilmaier
 6/16 Angelina Solomon
 6/20 Nora Miller
 6/25 Howard Solomon
 6/27 Kiko Valerio
 6/30 JR Davey



June Anniversaries

6/18 Steve and Olivia Weatherwax
 6/19 Bob & Maureen Somerville
 6/21 John & Jennifer McAuley



Remember in Prayer...

Our Shut-ins at home:

Tillie Herman, Ilean Lovering, Annette Simpson,
 Jack and Dolores Robb.

At Evergreen Commons: Wilson Large
At The Landing of Queensbury: Madeline
 Mundell

At Eddy Village Green: Roland Lovering

Those dealing with health issues:

- Alice and Stan Bentley, Marco Flamenco, Alex Holcomb, Marcella Goard, Serena Solomon, Tony Bologna (brother-in-law of Sue Hempstead)

Our Church:

- Pastor John and the Session

Our Community:

- Those who don't know the Lord
- Those dealing with financial difficulties
- That our schools would be places of safety

Our World:

- Missionaries serving around the world
- Open doors for sharing the Gospel message.
- Persecuted Christians around the world

General Financial Update for April 2011

	Year to Date	April
Total Income	\$48,725.48	\$11,849.00
Total Expenses	\$50,290.53	\$13,202.41
Difference	-\$ 1,565.05	-\$ 1,353.41

Vacation Bible
School
August 8th –
12th



If you are aged preschool through fifth grade, you are invited to join us at “**Son Surf Beach Bash**” where we will enjoy all the sights and sounds of the beach while learning all about Jesus.



We will explore the pages of God’s Word and discover the answers to our “big questions” about Jesus – Who is Jesus, Why can I trust

Jesus, Why do I need Jesus, How can Jesus help me when I mess up, and What does Jesus mean to me?

VBS is not just for kids. We will be offering an adult Bible study during the week also. You can come and participate in the opening program and the study will finish in time for you to participate in the closing program.



Informational brochures and registration forms are available in the narthex. Please take one for yourself or to share with a friend.



Many hands are needed throughout the week to make our program run smoothly. If you would like to help out please speak with Sue Laz.

Memorial Contributions

During May financial gifts were donated to Third Presbyterian Church in memory of Dick Pevery. These funds were deposited in the Memorial fund.



CATCH THE SPIRIT!!

You are invited to join us for a special day of celebration!

June 12th is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is the day that the **Holy Spirit** came upon the disciples in Jerusalem, they began preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the Christian church was born!!

Pentecost is a day to celebrate! It is a celebration of newness, of recreation, of renewal of purpose, mission and calling as God’s people. It is a celebration of God’s ongoing work in our world.



Red symbolizes the **fire** of the Holy Spirit and therefore, red is the color of the day. The sanctuary will be decorated with red and everyone is encouraged to wear something red.

After worship that morning we will have our **church picnic.** The Inward Ministry Committee will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, and beverages. If you would like, you may bring something to share such as, chips, a salad, or a dessert. You are also encouraged to bring lawn chairs and any outdoor games or activities.

We hope you will plan to join us for this special day of celebration!!

Volunteers Needed!!



The stewardship committee is seeking volunteers for the 2011 lawn mowing team as well as volunteers to help with several small projects around the church and the church grounds. If you have a few hours to offer to these efforts or would like to know more about these opportunities to serve please contact Andy Miller or Rob Jensen

Community Nursery School

Three's News

Can you believe our year is over! How quickly it went. We would like to take a moment to thank our parents for allowing us the pleasure of spending this past year getting to know your children. It was a great year and our honor to have spent it with your most precious gift. Thank you for all your donations throughout the year, without you it wouldn't have been the success that it was.



We look forward to seeing our 3's, who are now 4's in September and wish all our friends who will not be returning much luck in your new adventures.

Have a wonderful, fun filled and safe summer.

Mrs. Lammon and Mrs. Carroll

Fours News

Class of 2011

Another year has gone by so quickly. Our Graduation was marvelous and the youngsters did a fantastic job.

At this time although it's all been said before, we would like to thank some of our key players that have made this past year such a success. In addition to our students and their parents, we would like to acknowledge: Pastor John, Andy Miller, Sue Laz, and of course our own Miss Peggy. Each one of you played such an important roll this year and we would just like say to all of you, Thank-You.

Until September, have a safe and healthy summer.



Bible Quiz for June 2011

The answers for this quiz can be found within the first eight chapters of the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Enjoy!

1. What was the name of the prophet Isaiah's father?
2. To which group of people did Isaiah primarily prophesy?
3. In what year did Isaiah have a vision where he saw the Lord seated on His throne?
4. What type of creature surrounded the throne of God?
5. With what did one of those creatures touch Isaiah's tongue?
6. How did Isaiah respond to the Lord's question regarding who will be His messenger?
7. What were the names of Isaiah's two sons, and what did their names mean?
8. To whom did God say that He would send a son as a sign?
9. What did God say the name of that child would be?
10. What was the job/calling of Isaiah's wife?



Mission Spotlight:
Missing Link
Street Ministry

The Missing Link Street Ministry, under the leadership of Pastor Willie Bacote, serves the neighborhood of North Central Troy. Pastor Willie and his congregation are seeking to share the love of Jesus and the message of hope and new life in Him to a community that is struggling with poverty, unemployment, crime, and addictions.

Their “Feed A Kid Program” provides a hot, nutritious meal to any child who comes in every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. Pastor Willie and members of his church also deliver food to household to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry.

They seek to serve the physical and spiritual needs of their community often with limited resources.

Their Motto:

“Be blessed, but more so be a blessing in someone’s life today”

Their Purpose:

To rescue the perishing no matter who they are or where they maybe.

Their Goal:

To lead the lost to Christ through the Word of God.

Pastor Willie says, “We invite anyone at anytime to please visit and see the smiles upon the faces of these children and families each and every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:00 P.M., and see how God is using me and this ministry to make a difference in the lives of His people.”

Updates from our mission partners:

Michael and Yolanda Murray in China ask for prayers as they have a number of teaching opportunities coming up in addition to their ongoing teaching of fellow missionaries and local believers. They write, “We trust God that all these times of teaching the Word will result in changed thinking, belief, and daily choices. May the Word spread in effectiveness both in width and depth among the peoples.”

Peter Halder in Bangladesh expresses many thanks for our support of his ministry there. They have recently moved into their new ministry center and continue to minister to the people of their community in a variety of ways.

Please remember these and our other mission partners – The Capital City Rescue Mission, Hope 7, InterVarsity, Horizons, Youth for Christ, and our sponsored children (Jonathan in Gratemala and Jian in China) in your prayers.

SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-TROY, NEW YORK- MAY 9, 2011

ACTION ITEMS

1. A motion was made and carried to approve the use of \$10,000 from the Building Fund (\$8,914) and Memorial Fund (\$1,086) to replace the rear roof on the church building.
2. A motion was made and carried to have a one-time Special Financial Appeal to help cover the costs of the roof repair and other necessary repairs to the church building/property.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Miscellaneous Information: Average attendance for April 2011 was 62. (90 on Easter Sunday), Active membership is 85.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Handed out and reviewed PC/USA's proposed changes to ordination standards.
- Researching some sort of sound system for the hearing impaired.

UPWARD FOCUS (Encounter, Exalt, Enjoy)

WORSHIP & PRAYER

- Thinking toward Pentecost in June.
- Mike Martin and Rob Jensen have been added to the rotation of Head Greeter.
- We are thinking about our Church Building Anniversary on June 3, 2012 and how we want to celebrate that 50th anniversary. If anyone has any idea, please share them with us.

INWARD FOCUS (Encourage, Equip)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- A luncheon was held for Brittany Tappen on Sunday May 1st in thanks and appreciation for the three years she blessed us with her music talent on the piano and organ.
- We prayed for the different congregational concerns with their special needs. A card and check is to be sent to the Holcomb family to help with the expenses of any needs they might have with the care of Alex.

CHRISTIAN NURTURE - MEN'S MINISTRY - Men's Group will meet on Sunday's at 6:30 PM.

CHRISTIAN NURTURE - YOUTH MINISTRY

- Summer session of Sunday School will remain regular school format. Sue Laz will meet with the younger class using Abby McAuley and Angelina Solomon in more of a leadership role. Bill Multunas will continue to meet with the Young Adult Class.

CHRISTIAN NURTURE - MISCELLANEOUS

- Bible reading program for 2 Samuel is available. This will go until June 4th, then we will introduce the Essential 100's Bible Reading Program for the summer months. We will offer a tailored reading program for the youth, to encourage their participation in reading.

OUTWARD FOCUS (Engage, Evangelize, Extend)

OUTREACH

- Easter Egg Hunt went well. 32 kids attended. Presentation of the Gospel well received.
- Community Nursery School students will receive a book and a note from the church at the end of the year.
- Vacation Bible School planning underway.

MISSIONS

- Aid to Japan: Community Nursery School families gave \$57.18; have collected just over \$400; we will use Mission Envelope funds to give an even \$500.
- Spending for May: \$100 - Hope 7, \$ 250 Missing Link Street Ministry, \$1,000 Medical Benevolence, \$ 500 - Capital City Rescue Mission, One Great Hour Of Sharing is ongoing.

PROPERTY

- Motions to replace rear roof and appeal for funds.
- Working on equipment for our hearing impaired members
- Several painting and repair projects are planned to be accomplished this spring and summer.

COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

- Graduation and Moving Up Day - May 26th.
- Publicized that we have openings for fall.
- Enrollment for 2011-2012 so far: 8 Four-Year-Olds, 7 Three-Year-Olds

NOMINATING

- Met May 1st and have started our process. Will keep you informed.
- Looking to fill 4 Three-Year terms, 1 Two-Year term and 1 One -Year term, to bring us to our full complement of twelve Elders.

ALBANY PRESBYTERY - Returning to Silver Bay for the September Presbytery meeting for a two or three day meeting. The purpose is to build and strengthen our community. Jerry Whitman will not be attending, so a delegate for our church is needed.

The Study Catechism

As part of your spiritual development, I encourage you to join with me in reading through and reflecting on "The Study Catechism" developed by the Presbyterian Church USA for instruction in Confirmation classes and for the church body in general. "The Study Catechism" was approved for use by the 210th General Assembly in 1998.

Q # 47. What do we affirm when we say that "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father?"

First, that Christ has gone to be with the Father, hidden except to the eyes of faith. Second, however, that Christ is not cut off from us in the remote past, or in some place from which He cannot reach us, but is present to us here and now by grace. He reigns with divine authority, protecting us, guiding us, and interceding for us until He returns in glory. (Acts 1:6-11; Colossians 3:1)

Q # 48. How do we understand the words that "He will come again to judge the living and the dead"?

Like everyone else, I too must stand in fear and trembling before the judgment seat of Christ. But the Judge is the one who submitted to judgment for my sake. Nothing will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord. All sinful failures that cause me shame will perish as through fire, while any good I may have done will be received with gladness by God. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Acts 10:42, 17:31; Romans 8:38-39; 1 John 4:17)

Q # 49. Will all humans be saved?

No one will be lost who is to be saved [All who repent of their sins and call on the name of the Lord for salvation will be saved.]. Three truths are certain: God is a holy God who is not to be trifled with; No one will be saved but by God's grace alone; no judge is more gracious than our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. (Ezekiel 18:32; Matthew 18:12-14; John 3:17-18; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 8:1, 10:13, 11:32; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Tim 2:3-4)

Q # 50. Is Christianity the only true religion?

By the grace of God, Christianity offers the truth of the gospel. Although other religions may contain various truths, no other can or does affirm the name of Jesus Christ – the incarnate Son of God—as the hope of the world. (Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:3-9; Philippians 2:6-11)



Calling all Preschoolers!!

Community Nursery School still has openings for the **2011-2012 school year**. Classes are offered for 3-year-olds two mornings per week and for 4-year-olds three mornings per week. The program is theme oriented and includes stories, songs and finger plays, craft activities, Bible lessons, and birthday and holiday celebrations. If you know of anyone with young children who may be interested, please take one of our informational brochures to share with them. The brochures are available in the narthex. For more information please call the church office at 283-2420.



*Third Presbyterian Church
115 Winter Street
Troy, NY 12180*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*Our Mission:
To Love our God and Neighbor
To Proclaim the Gospel through
Word and Deed
To Make Disciples of Jesus the Christ*

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16