

The Third PRESS



July 2017

“Redeemed, Forgiven By Christ: Reason For Praise”

Have you been around someone lately who was really excited? Like a young woman who just received an engagement ring? Or a teenager who just passed his driver's test? Or a teacher who just began her summer break?

And have you ever noticed how, in such situations, the excitement can be almost contagious so that others quickly get swept up in the emotion of the moment.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, when we looked at Ephesians 1:1-6, such excitement characterizes the emotion Paul was trying to convey in the opening verses of this letter. As Paul laid out a foundation for the instructions to follow, he did so in an attitude of worship, praise, and thanksgiving, calling forth blessings upon God, who by His grace and for His pleasure, has made the church to be a blessing to Himself.

Throughout this first chapter of “Ephesians”, Paul returned again and again to two primary themes: the riches of God's grace, given to us in accordance with His unlimited, overwhelming love; and, the working out of that grace in God's creation in such a way that He is glorified and His pleasure is satisfied. And, as Paul presented these themes, Paul exhorted the church to praise, because praise is the Christian's highest form of worship. If anything will silence the attacks of Satan it's the whole-hearted praise of God (Ps 8:2).

Paul's words exhort us to praise as our response to the Father's Sovereign plan in which He chose us, adopted us as His children, and restored us into right relationship with Himself through Jesus Christ (Eph 1:3-6).

Continuing in our study through “Ephesians”, our passage for this newsletter reveals how this restoration comes about and what it means for the church, the people of God who have received His special grace.

Before examining the Scripture focus of this newsletter, Ephesians 1:7-10, let's first read that text.

In Him [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment -- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. (Eph 1:7-10 NIV)

Note how Paul wrote in verse 7 that we have been redeemed through the blood of Jesus. As Paul began to talk about the privilege that comes from being chosen by God, one such privilege is that we have been redeemed -- forgiven of our sins.

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 ThirdChurchTroy



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The Lord Jesus Christ

The Ministers of the
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Every Believer

The Passion of the
Church is...
to be Spirit empowered
ministers of
reconciliation to God,
inviting all people to
faith in Christ Jesus
our Lord and
to holiness of life.



Our Mission:

To Love our God and
Neighbor

To Proclaim the Gospel
through Word and Deed

To Make Disciples of
Jesus the Christ



I believe that Paul uses redemption and forgiveness in a sort of synonymous parallelism here, for the two, although containing slightly different emphases, are inextricably connected. Our redemption through the blood of Jesus is necessary because of our sins, and in turn, it is because we have been redeemed that forgiveness is made possible.

But this redemption, this forgiveness, requires that two conditions be met. First, that the one who offers forgiveness has the authority to forgive sins. And second, that the one who offers forgiveness has the ability to pay the price which forgiveness requires – the ‘ransom price’.

Now, speaking to that first condition, you may recall that in Jesus’ ministry He had a habit of telling people who came to Him for healing that their sins were forgiven. For example, in “Mark” chapter 2, when a paralytic, hoping to be healed, was carried to Jesus by his friends, Jesus, upon seeing their faith said to the paralytic, **“Son, your sins are forgiven”** (Mk 2:5).

This really angered the Pharisees. The crowds were so impressed that Jesus could heal someone that they didn’t care how He did it, but the Pharisees understood what Jesus was doing. The Pharisee’s knew that when Jesus announced the forgiveness of sins He was claiming to be God -- because only God could truly forgive sin. Only God has that authority. And Jesus claimed such authority -- all authority in heaven and upon earth -- an authority which He authenticated in the presence of the crowd when He told the paralytic to rise, take up his mat and walk (Mk 2:11). And the man was healed.

Of course, although the teachers of the Law were unwilling to accept Jesus’ claim to authority, they did recognize that a condition for proclaiming the forgiveness of sin is having the authority to do so. At the same time, they understood that the only person who has the right and the authority to forgive another is the one who ultimately is offended. Even David, the second king of Israel, understood this, which is why after sleeping with Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba, and then later having Uriah killed, he confessed his sin to God saying, **“Against you only have I sinned and done what was evil in your sight.”** (Ps 51:4)

David wasn’t denying that he wronged Uriah and Bathsheba, but ultimately it was God against whom he sinned, for it was God’s law that he had broken and God’s image that he had violated. And so, truly to be forgiven, David, like us, had to confess to the One to whom he was ultimately accountable, and that was God.

Now in our daily interactions, as Christians, we are commanded to forgive those who sin against us and to seek forgiveness from those against whom we sin. But we must remember that any authority we have to forgive was given to us by God the Father through His Son, Jesus (Mt 18:18). When we do forgive we do so in God’s name – on account of Jesus’ authority and as the Father’s adopted children -- because true forgiveness cannot be offered or received apart from Jesus Christ. Jesus is the One who gives us the authority to forgive because He is the only one who also met the second condition necessary for forgiveness to occur. For only Jesus was able to pay the price which forgiveness requires. Only Jesus is able to redeem us from our bondage to sin.

Redemption should be a wonderfully encouraging word for the Christian. As theologian Leon Morris described it:

“The term redemption goes back to the customs used in ancient warfare. It was a frequent practice for the conquerors in battle to take captives who could then be made slaves and put to work on all sorts of useful service. However, if they were people of importance, they might be highly valued in their homeland. In such cases the captives could be set free and restored to their rightful place by a process called ‘redemption’. A sum of money, which was called the ‘ransom price’, was paid by the vanquished to the victors.”

Thus central to the overriding thought of redemption is that a person who is in captivity cannot free themselves. Yet, the person could be set free if and only if the ‘ransom price’ was paid – if and only if they were redeemed.

As Paul wrote, our redemption -- our restoration into right relationship with the Father -- was costly. The ‘ransom price’ was beyond our means to pay! Fortunately, when God offers us forgiveness through His grace, we don’t have to pay for it! It’s free to us. But it wasn’t free for God. Since the wages

of sin are death (Rom 6:23), the shedding of blood is required if a Holy and Just God is to forgive the sins of mankind (Heb 9:22b), and redeem a people from the punishment sin deserves. But only one sacrifice was sufficient to cover the sins of God's people, namely the life of His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ.

This is why the apostle Peter wrote:

“ . . . it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed, . . . , but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Similarly, chapters nine and ten of “Hebrews” tells us that Jesus was the final, necessary, and sufficient sacrifice for the forgiveness of the sins of all who confess faith in Him. He made atonement for our sins, appeased the wrath of God, and restored us into relationship with our heavenly Father. Thus the apostle John could write:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

God promises through the Psalmist that He will remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west (Ps 103:12).

And God encourages us through the prophet Jeremiah saying:

“I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” (Jer 31:34)

God forgets our sins in that He no longer holds them against us; but, He never forgets the cost of our forgiveness -- the very price imprinted upon the nail scarred hands of His only begotten Son.

God offers us forgiveness -- a complete, limitless forgiveness that impacts our past, present and future. For the forgiveness we have through the blood of Jesus removes from our past all guilt and any cause for alienation from the Father. And the forgiveness we have through the blood of Jesus assures us in the present that we are recipients of the riches of the Father's grace -- a grace lavished upon us in accordance with the generous, loving character of our God. And the forgiveness we have through the blood of Jesus promises a future when we will experience the fullness of the Father's divine mercy and peace.

Forgiveness is a free gift from God for all who believe. And the response of the believer should be nothing less than praise with thanksgiving.

Yet too often, even after we hear and respond to the gospel and we begin our journey walking with Jesus, we find ourselves cleaving ever so tightly to our sin. Despite the fact that our sin is as a burden to us -- like a huge pack strapped to our backs causing us to stumble and keeping us from receiving and enjoying God's love -- we hold tightly to its crushing weight. And we moan under the load. And we wince at the pain as the straps dig into our already raw flesh. But it's as if we can't or won't let go.

Sadly, our sins become so much a part of us that we can't even conceive living apart from them. And what's worse, over time, despite the mess our sins create, we come to cherish, even nurture them to the point that we actually deceive ourselves into believing that many of our vices are really virtues. And we come to describe our critical spirit as spiritual discernment. And we call our acceptance of sexual promiscuity and perversion tolerance. And we validate our selfish consumerism by claiming that God wants His children to experience prosperity.

For whatever reason -- the fear, the shame, the anger, the hurt, the false-humility, the pride -- we cling to our sins until they eat away at us emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Karl Menninger, the famous secular psychiatrist once said, if he could convince the patients in his psychiatric hospital that their sins were forgiven, 75% of them could walk out the next day.

Of course, genuine forgiveness isn't simply a matter of speaking words of confession and pardon from one person to another. It's not as simple as Karl Menninger might have perceived. As already mentioned, there are the issues of having the authority to forgive and the ability to pay the price of forgiveness.

But God does tell us, the church, His chosen ones in Christ, that our sins are forgiven through the blood of Jesus -- because Jesus does have the authority to do this, and Jesus did pay the price. Through Jesus we have been redeemed!

And still we cling to our sins, at times almost fighting our God who desires to wash them away. Perhaps we're seeking to satisfy some need to earn forgiveness. Perhaps the guilt we feel won't let us believe we can be forgiven. Perhaps we have told ourselves, or others have told us, that we can never be forgiven. And we believe these lies instead of believing God's promise.

To be sure, the truth is that we can never earn our forgiveness. We can never be good enough or do enough to remove our guilt. But that's precisely why Jesus had to die. And that's the splendor of God's redeeming love.

So, I encourage you, if you are struggling to receive God's forgiveness, stop beating yourself up with your sin. At the same time, stop nursing and coddling your sin and in doing so give it greater power over your life. Like the main character, Christian, in John Bunyan's allegory "Pilgrim's Progress", drop your baggage at the foot of the cross and let your sins roll into the empty grave of our Savior. Until you and I do this our Christian 'walk' will be more like an infant's crawling or a drunkard's staggering.

However, if we open our hearts to fully receive restoration and redemption -- the forgiveness which the Father offers us through His Son Jesus -- then we will experience the joy expressed by Charles Wesley in his wonderfully liberating hymn, "And Can It be?" where he writes:

"Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off my heart was free,
I rose, went forth and followed thee.
Amazing love, how can it be,
that Thou my God shouldst die for me?"

That's what God's amazing love has done for us when He redeemed us through the blood of Jesus. That's the revelation of God's unlimited favor. That's the mystery which the prophets of old longed to understand, but which has now been revealed to us in Christ.

God has made known to us a secret mystery -- a mystery which no human could uncover. This mystery is not like an Agatha Christy novel with all the clues properly set forth so that the clever detective could solve the case. God has kept this mystery to Himself, undiscoverable until the proper time when He chose to reveal His plan in Christ. This is a mystery set in motion before the foundation of the world - a mystery in which just enough was revealed throughout the ages to nurture faith and provide hope.

From the day Adam and Eve were first driven from the Garden of Eden, God has been working to provide a way for His people to reside in His presence once again. Through Jesus Christ, the Father has been working to restore His people and His creation to Himself. The Father has been working to redeem us, to forgive us, and, to re-unite us into a pure, untarnished relationship with Him.

And, Jesus the Christ is the summation and revelation of all God's working throughout time (Col 1:15-20). Jesus is the inaugurator of the final days in which the Father is gathering His people to Himself, so that one day peoples from every nation and tribe and language and tongue will stand before the Lamb of God, singing praises to our Savior and King (Rev 7:9-10). Jesus is the culmination of God's plan for all creation. All things in heaven and upon the earth shall be brought into submission and order through Christ (1 Pt 3:22).

As a result, "in Christ" life has purpose -- life has hope! For, the revelation of the mystery made known to us according to God's good pleasure is a revelation of hope and joy.

And the fruit of such a revelation should be heart-felt love, devotion, and praise, because the God who chooses us, adopts us, redeems us, forgives us, and unites us in Christ is the one and only

Sovereign God. And His will is being carried out through His church. And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mt 16:18b).

The world is full of attractive alternatives fighting for our time and loyalty -- our very life. But the hope they offer is empty, and the joy they promise is fleeting. Their promises of health-and-wealth, of prosperity-and-purpose, are tempting, but they can never satisfy our deepest needs, because they lack the power and authority to offer that for which our hearts most hunger: reconciliation, forgiveness!

It is in the midst of these temptations that Paul's words challenge us asking: If we've been redeemed by the blood of Jesus -- and we have; and, if we've been forgiven by the mercy of the Father - - and we have; and if we've been the recipients of God's grace according to the measure of His goodness and not our merit -- and we have; then, can we do anything less than give ourselves in complete, unwavering devotion to God and God alone?

The story has been told of an orphaned boy who was living with his grandmother when their house caught fire. The grandmother, trying to get upstairs to rescue the boy, died in the flames. The boy's cries for help were finally answered by a man who climbed an iron drain pipe and came down with the boy hanging tightly to his neck.

Several weeks later, a public hearing was held to determine who would receive custody of the child. A farmer, a teacher, and the town's wealthiest citizen all gave reasons they felt they should be chosen to give the boy a home. They all fought for his loyalties.

As they talked, the lad's eyes remained focused on the floor.

Then a stranger walked to the front and slowly took his hands from his pockets, revealing deep, permanent scars.

As the crowd gasped, the boy cried out in recognition. This was the man who had saved his life and whose hands had been burned when he climbed the hot pipe.

With a leap the boy threw his arms around the man's neck and held on for dear life. The other men silently walked away, leaving the boy and his rescuer alone. Those scared hands had settled the issue.

That boy recognized the one who had redeemed his life from certain death! And so that child knew who deserved his love! And, in turn, that child knew who alone should receive his devotion!

How about you? Do you recognize and trust in the One who is your Redeemer? And are you giving to Him your complete, unconditional devotion – a devotion He earned when He stretched out His hands on a cross for you – that you might be forgiven – that you might be redeemed?

Love in Christ Jesus,

Pastor John



The Community Garage Sale in June was a huge success! It was a great day with many opportunities to meet and interact with people from the community and we received \$385.00 that will be used for the Back-to-School Fair in August. "Thank you" to all who participated!

July Birthdays

- 7/1 James McAuley
- 7/3 John Pedersen
- 7/3 Hazel Landry
- 7/6 Edith Lovell
- 7/11 Michael Giddings
- 7/13 Virginia Steffen
- 7/13 Tillie Herman
- 7/13 Doris Calamaras
- 7/14 Deena Dominy
- 7/15 Jon Purnell
- 7/23 Michele Reynolds
- 7/26 Jason Laz
- 7/28 John McAuley



July Anniversaries

- 7/7 Chuck & Kim Davey
- 7/8 Jan & John Pedersen
- 7/11 Andy & Pat Miller
- 7/19 Vera & Jerry Whitman

Help Fill the Shelves at Hope 7's Food Pantry!

Hope 7's food pantry serves families in need right here in our own community. The need is great and has been growing every year!

During the month of July we will be collecting juice.



Donations of other non-perishable food will also be accepted.

General Financial Update for May 2017

	Year to Date	May
Total Income	\$68,218.00	\$11,929.00
Total Expenses	\$71,735.52	\$13,385.60
Difference	\$(3,517.52)	\$(1,456.60)



Remember in Prayer...

Our shut-ins at home

Tillie Herman, Marcella Goard, June Giles

At the Eddy: Dot Multunas, Edna Wells

At Schuyler Ridge: Dolores Robb

Those dealing with health issues:

Stan Bentley

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

Dan serving in Africa:

For health and safe travel this summer

For the local believers as we leave for the summer that God will continue to strengthen them.

For the persecuted church, locals who risk ostracism and physical threats from family

For my family back home

Thank God for the work He has been doing here and the excitement we have for the work He will continue to do.

Back to School Fair **August 26th from 11:00 – 1:00**

As a way to serve our community and help children to be prepared for the start of school, Third Church will once again host a Back to School Fair for families in need in our community.



Each child that attends will receive a backpack and school supplies. A Bible or other age appropriate devotional material as well as information about our church and its ministries will be included with each backpack.

There will also be:

- ❖ Games, crafts, and other activities for the children to participate in
- ❖ Food and beverages for everyone to enjoy

How can you help? You could:

- ❖ Provide cookies or brownies for the food area
- ❖ Sponsor a backpack at a cost of \$25. Forms for this are available in the narthex and in the church office.
- ❖ Donate school supplies (1,3, and 5 subject spiral notebooks, loose leaf paper, marble composition books, boxes of 24 crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, 2 pocket folders, highlighters, pencils, pens, pencil boxes and pencil sharpeners)
- ❖ Volunteer to help with set-up, clean-up, cooking and serving food, sorting supplies and filling backpacks, helping with the various games and craft activities.

There are baskets in the sanctuary for you to place your donations of school supplies in. Monetary donations can also be made by using the "Mission" envelopes in your box of offering envelopes or by indicating that your donation is for the Back to School Fair.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please speak with anyone on the committee – Pat Gilmaier, Jason Laz, Sue Laz, Jen McAuley, Andy Miller, Lauren Russell, Sue Stierer, Jerry Whitman, Vera Whitman or Pastor John

Serving This Month

July 2nd

Worship Assistants: Eric Ofori
Greeters: Joe Pasinella
Head Greeters: Rob Jensen
Nursery: Deena Dominy, Ella Miller
Communion: Andy Miller
Fellowship Hosts: Pat Gilmaier, Andy Miller

July 9th

Worship Assistants: Natalia Multunas, Sue Stierer
Greeters: Alice Bentley, Bill Multunas
Head Greeter: Peter Laz
Nursery: Jen McAuley, Lois Pasinella
Communion: Alice Bentley, Sue Laz, Vera Whitman, Bill Multunas
Fellowship Host: Multunas Family

July 16th

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy, Kelly Valerio
Greeters: Jen and James McAuley
Head Greeter: Andy Miller
Nursery: Megan Laz, Alice Bentley
Communion: Eric Ofori, Dean Calamaras, Doris Calamaras, Deena Dominy
Fellowship Hosts: Russell Family

July 23th

Worship Assistants: Eric Ofori, Dean Calamaras
Greeters: Dean and Doris Calamaras
Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
Nursery: Deena Dominy, Diane Lewinski
Communion: Jason Laz, Jen McAuley, Jerry Whitman, Natalia Multunas
Fellowship Hosts: Sue Stierer

July 30th

Worship Assistants: Sue Laz, Jesse Ofori
Greeters: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski
Head Greeter: Peter Laz
Nursery: Jaime Miller, Angelina Solomon
Communion: Peter Laz, Rachel Farnum, Rick Russell, Rob Jensen
Fellowship Hosts: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski



Growing as Disciples

Before his ascension Jesus left his followers with a final command and a promise,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

The church of Jesus Christ is to be about the task of making disciples. But before we can make disciples, we must be disciples.

Dallas Willard writes, “Though costly, discipleship once had a very clear, straightforward meaning. The mechanics are not the same today. We cannot literally be with him (Jesus) in the same way as his first disciples could. But the priorities and intentions – the heart or inner attitudes – of disciples are forever the same. In the heart of a disciple there is a desire, and there is decision or settled intent. The disciple of Christ desires above all else to be like him.”

Part of the work of the Inward Ministry Committee is to provide resources and opportunities for the members and friends of Third Church to grow as disciples. To help us all in this growing process, the committee has developed a booklet that describes the various stages of spiritual growth and explains some things we must do to continue to grow in our faith. The booklets were given out in worship on June 3rd and copies are available in the narthex. You are encouraged to read through the booklet and consider the questions that are included.

Our prayer is that everyone will take advantage of the various resources that are available as we all together seek to grow as disciples.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is a vital part of the life of the church and the life of a believer. As we pray for one another we strengthen the entire body of Christ. Prayer helps keep us focused on what we are to be about as God’s people in this place. The Upward Ministry Committee offers several ways for you to participate in the prayer life of Third Church:



There is a time of prayer every **Sunday morning** from **8:30 – 9:00**. The focus of this time is to pray for the morning’s activities, for our community and those

who don’t know the Lord, and any special needs within the congregation. Times of spoken prayer and time for silent prayer are included.

There is a **prayer sheet** printed every week and available in the narthex for you to pick up and take with you for use in your times of prayer during the week.

Included in the Order of Worship each week is an **outline for prayer** that you can use throughout the week to guide your prayer time. Prayer concerns are listed and you can use the space to write in any joys or concerns raised on Sunday morning.

Each month’s issue of the “Third Press” includes a **Prayer and Bible Reading Calendar** that lists specific people and ministries to pray for each day.

There is a **prayer chain** that prays for needs as they arise. You can receive prayer requests by phone or by email. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please speak with Sue Laz.

We encourage you to participate in as many of these activities as possible. Prayer keeps us focused on God and when we keep our hearts and minds centered on God, He will accomplish great things through us.



The Upward Ministry Committee is considering adding another time for prayer during the week. If you would be interested in this please speak with Sue or Jason Laz.

Mission Updates

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” 1 Peter 4:10

Your giving to Third Church enables us to support many varied ministries, both locally and around the world. The funds we give and the prayers offered for our various mission partners are greatly appreciated and we wanted to share some of the thoughts and comments we have received from those we support.

From Dan in East Africa – “It’s been truly exciting to see the ways God has been working here in such a short time. We have seen several new brothers and sisters come to faith in the past few weeks and I had the opportunity to join some of them at the beach the other day as they made their decision there.

This summer I have some exciting plans though, and I hope that I will be able to come back in the fall recharged and better equipped to work effectively here. When I leave here I will be going to Tanzania for about two weeks to work with some short-term teams, going out and sharing the good news in very remote regions and training local leaders to support their communities. From there I will head to Mozambique to learn from a cross cultural worker who had begun his work in a very hostile region but has seen fellowships grow and flourish in a way that has been truly incredible. We hope to learn from the work he has done there and appropriately adapt and apply it here where we live, which is a similar culture but is one in which we have struggled to see self-sustaining fellowships grow. After a little over a week there I will head to Indonesia where I hope to help prepare for and lead a team of young interns interested in living and serving cross culturally. After a full two months of travelling and working I will have some time to rest and catch my breath in August before returning to Djibouti to dive back into the work here hopefully a little wiser and ready to work as effectively as possible.

From Kevin Post (Capital District YFC) – “Thank you for investing in the lives of 11-19 year olds in the Capital District. As another school year draws to a close and summer begins, we at YFC see many opportunities to connect with teens so that they will know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Please keep our staff and volunteers in prayer as they have so many opportunities to be with teens that need Jesus. Pray for everyone’s safety and for great conversations that will lead teens to say, YES, to Jesus. Pray for teens who have attempted or are considering suicide, are addicted to drugs, have unstable home lives, or are hurting and confused but nobody knows because they have learned to hid what is going on.

We know we live in a dark world, but we also know that we have a Savior that overcame the darkness and because of Him, we can too. Thank you once again for being the light of Jesus!”

From Perry Jones (Capital City Rescue Mission) – “Thank you for your generous gift to help someone in our community who is struggling. You are providing men, women and children with hearty meals, good used clothing, recovery and discipleship programs, and the hope of eternal life. Lives are being changed. Broken people are being healed. New life is begun. Thank you!

Niki Campbell (InterVarsity at RPI and Sage) will be with us in worship on **July 23rd** to share with us about her ministry on our college campuses.

Information and updates on all of our mission partners can be found on the bulletin boards in fellowship hall.

Updates and prayer requests from Dan as he serves in Africa are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

What Gifts Will You Share?

The Outward Ministry Committee is looking for ways our congregation can share its many gifts with our community. We recognize that many of you have skills and abilities that might be useful in helping and encouraging others in their everyday life situations. As a church we have the unique opportunity to present practical, everyday help with a biblical perspective as we share how our faith impacts how we live out our lives.

Some things we thought of where people may need someone to come alongside and offer advice and encouragement are:

- Dealing with aging parents
- Navigating learning disabilities
- Managing personal finances
- Health and fitness
- The benefits and dangers of social media
- Issues of health and safety
- Basic car care

We would like to offer a series of workshops/discussions that would be open to the community on these and any other topics that may be of interest. These times would include the presentation of information and a time for questions and answers. We are asking you to consider what gifts you have that you would be willing to share in this way.

If you have any questions, would like be a part of leading a session or have a topic you would like to learn more about, please speak with anyone on the Outward Ministry Committee (Pat Gilmaier, Jason Laz, Sue Laz, Jen McAuley, Andy Miller, Lauren Russell, Jerry Whitman, Vera Whitman or Pastor John)

Bible Quiz for July 2017

Our current sermon series, which began at the end of April, is on the New Testament book of "1 Thessalonians". As we continue that study the questions for this quiz are taken from the fourth chapter of this letter.

1. True or False: Paul's goal for instructing the believers in Thessalonica on how to live for God was that they might in turn please the other residents of that city.
2. True or False: Before proceeding to give instructions on godly living in chapter four, Paul reminded the church of his authority in Christ.
3. True or False: Paul warned the church against sexually immoral behavior unless society finds such behavior acceptable.
4. Fill in the blanks: "For God did not call us to be _____, but to live a _____ life."
5. True or False: To reject Paul's teaching on sexual immorality is to reject God.
6. True or False: The church at Thessalonica so loved one another that Paul felt no need to urge them to grow in their love for the brethren.
7. True or False: Paul urged believers to work in a manner that earns the respect of non-believers.
9. True or False: Paul encouraged believers in Thessalonica to take advantage of social programs that service their needs even if they are able to take care of themselves because they deserve the benefits of such programs as much as anybody else.
10. Fill in the blanks: "We believe that Jesus _____ and _____ again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have _____ in Him."
11. True or False: Paul wrote about the resurrection of the dead at the return of Christ to assure the believers at Thessalonica that any who put their faith in Jesus and are now dead will be resurrected at Christ's return.

SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-JUNE 12, 2017

ACTION ITEMS - A motion was made and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 8th and 22nd.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Next Communion will be served:
 - July 2nd by Andy Miller (Intinction).
 - July 9th by Alice Bentley, Sue Laz, Vera Whitman, and Bill Multunas.
- Miscellaneous Information:
 - Average attendance for May 2017 was 47.
 - Noting, for the record, the death of member Dorothy McGan on May 26th.
 - Reminder of activities before the next business meeting:
 - 06/26-06/30 – Vacation Bible School at church from 9 AM to Noon.
 - 07/05 – Bible Study and Worship at The Eddy at 10:15 AM.
 - 07/07 – Worship & Communion at The Eddy at 3:30 PM.

UPWARD MINISTRY

WORSHIP & PRAYER

- Choir is on “summer break” until fall.
- Replaced the computer in the balcony for projection and will be looking to upgrade the software on the machine soon.
- Upcoming Ministry Minutes:
 - Kevin Post – June 25th.
 - Sue Stierer (Sunday School) – July 9th.
 - Niki Campbell – July 23rd.
- Perry Jones preaching on September 24th.
- We'll be reaching out to Albany Presbytery about the process of commissioning one or more Elders to preside over Communion, should Pastor John be away.
- We are exploring the possibility of adding another time of prayer during the week.

INWARD MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Vacation Bible School planning is well underway. Will be held June 26 – 30th from 9:00 to Noon. We will be journeying into the Amazon Rainforest to discover what it means to follow Jesus. We will be looking at the parables of Jesus:
 - Parable of the Sower – we must receive God's Word.
 - Parable of the Lost Sheep – we must be found by Jesus.
 - Parable of the House Built on a Rock – we must do God's Word.
 - Parable of the Good Samaritan – we must share God's love with others.
 - Parable of the Talents – we must use our gifts in service to God.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Adult Sunday School class is continuing their study on the life of Jesus.
- The Wednesday evening Bible Study continues studying through 1 Thessalonians.
- We will take advantage of having the tent for the Back-To-School Fair and have a picnic on August 27th.

SENIOR'S MINISTRY - Proceeds from our Spring get together for Ronald McDonald's House in Albany were \$150, and two boxes of food items.

OUTWARD MINISTRY (Engage, Evangelize, Extend)

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

- Spending for June:
 - \$500 Capital City Rescue Mission.
 - \$300 Reach Across (Dan McAuley).
 - \$500 Bangladesh Youth For Christ.
 - \$700 Capital District Youth For Christ.
 - \$ 42 "Church Around The World" inserts.
- Gave a \$50 donation to ***Theology Matters*** from the Mission envelope funds.
- The Special Mission Offering received: \$2,141.
- Proceeds from the Community Garage Sale on June 3rd were \$385, which will be used for the Back-To-School Fair that will be held on August 26th.
- The Back-To-School Fair will be held on August 26th from 11-1.
- Looking to host a series of "Community Conversations" that would cover topics of interest to the general population. Each event would present information on the topic and include how our faith informs what we do in relation to that topic.

We got some feedback on possible topics by surveying individuals that came to the garage sale on June 3rd. We will be looking to get feedback from the congregation also.

STEWARDSHIP

GENERAL FUND/FINANCE - We had a negative cash flow during May of \$1,456.60. This gives us a year-to-date deficit of \$3,517.52. We are short approximately \$160 per week.

PROPERTY - The new computer for the office has been purchased and installed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor John then began a discussion and study of food for thought and things to chew on regarding:
 - What it means to be the body of Christ.
 - Willingness to change.
 - We must learn to venture and grow with new gifts.
 - Reminded us that we don't get ownership of church without sharing our gifts.
 - We were asked to think about these things and pray on them.

NEXT MEETINGS - Business – July 10th at church at 7 PM.

Reflect on the following questions:

- What passion has the Lord placed on my heart, and where does it fit in with my walk with Him?
- How can I use my vocation/current situation for the Lord?
- What do I feel God is leading this church to be passionate about?

THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

The Scriptures exhort us to be ready to give a defense for our faith in Jesus (1 Tim 4:16; 2 Tim 2:15; 1 Pt 3:15). To equip us to be able to do that we will continue in our review of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Q 53. Which is the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment is, "You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

Q 54. What is required in the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word, and works.

Q 55. What is forbidden in the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God makes Himself known.

Q 56. What is the reason annexed to the Third Commandment?

The reason annexed to the Third Commandment is that, however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not let them escape His righteous judgment.

Q 57. Which is the Fourth Commandment?

The Fourth Commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God: on it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Q 58. What is required in the Fourth Commandment?

The Fourth Commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as He has appointed in His Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to Himself.

Q 59. Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

Q 60. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Church Nursery

If you haven't already noticed the church nursery is a very busy place lately. It is wonderful to hear the sounds of playing and laughter every Sunday morning. Along with that comes the need for nursery attendants to care for little ones in the nursery while their parents are in worship.



We currently have a great group of people who rotate in their service in the nursery but there is always room to add others to this important ministry.

Nursery volunteers must be at least 11 years old. They serve in teams of two and are expected to be in the nursery by 10:20.

If you feel called to be a part of the nursery ministry please speak with Sue Laz.

Third Presbyterian Church
115 Winter Street
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EXALTING GOD / PROCLAIMING CHRIST / MAKING DISCIPLES