

# The Third PRESS



October 2017

## “Christ’s Coronation Secures our Restoration”

As we continue our study through the book of “Ephesians” in this newsletter series, we find ourselves at the end of the first chapter of that letter, reflecting upon the second half of a prayer by Paul for the church at Ephesus, a prayer that began at verse 15.

Picking up at verse 18 (see the September newsletter for reflections on the first half of this prayer), we read:

**I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:18-23)**

In this section of Paul’s opening prayer, following his profound theological statement of the work of the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – on our behalf, Paul prayed that they would know, would really understand, who God is, what God has done for them, and what this implies regarding how they should live their lives.

In this prayer, Paul desired to encourage the church, reminding them of the hope to which God has called them, the riches of being numbered among God’s heirs, and God’s incomparably great power available for all who believe -- for all who have put their faith in Jesus.

We all want power of some sort, don’t we?

And if the power is not our own we want to be connected to the source of power, because we know that with power comes security, and with security comes peace.

Unfortunately, we often deceive ourselves, placing our faith in a false power, assuming a security which is not really there, proclaiming peace when our lives are perhaps better defined by panic and paranoia.

We see the dangers of finding comfort in a false power even as we look at Russia, or China, or North Korea, and at the power of their military, and at the United States and the power of our military; and as we consider each in the light of God’s word which warns – not to trust in tanks-and-planes-and-ships-and-bombs, but to trust in the Lord our God.

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 ThirdChurchTroy

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A community of Christ  
-followers where,

The Head of the Church  
is...  
The Lord Jesus Christ

The Ministers of the  
Church are...  
Every Believer

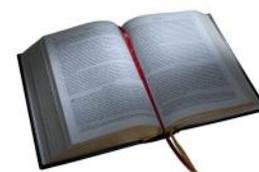
The Passion of the  
Church is...  
to be Spirit empowered  
ministers of  
reconciliation to God,  
inviting all people to  
faith in Christ Jesus  
our Lord and  
to holiness of life.

~~~~~  
Our Mission:

To Love our God and  
Neighbor

To Proclaim the Gospel  
through Word and Deed

To Make Disciples of  
Jesus the Christ



This sense of false security was exposed for the danger it could bring several decades back in the small town of Itasca, Texas. Just before World War II, a school fire in that small town took the lives of 263 children. Hardly a family in that town was not touched by this tragedy. Then the war came and Itasca remained without a school. After the war ended, Itasca began to expand so they built a new school facility which featured what was called for that time, "the finest sprinkler system in the world". Civic pride ran high. Students gave tours for citizens and visitors showing them the most advanced sprinkler system technology-could-supply-and-money-could-buy. The people of Itasca felt secure and confident of the safety of their children. As a result of the post war boom the town continued to grow, and seven years after the new school was built it was time to expand the building. As they added on a new wing and all the connections were made with the old building, it was discovered that their high-tech sprinkler system had never been connected.

Paul wanted the church to be sure they were connected to the one and only source of true power and security, and then to appreciate and use that power for the glory of Christ's church -- for he knew the tragedy that would occur if their hope was misplaced. Thus Paul closed his prayer by emphasizing that God alone deserves our trust -- our confidence -- for He alone possesses the power to carry out His promises. And God demonstrated that power when He raised Jesus from the dead and seated Jesus at His right hand.

The tragedy that came to that small town of Itasca, came in the form of a horrible fire, a fire that took the lives of many.

A greater tragedy occurred thousands of years prior, in a beautiful garden called Eden. It was there that Adam and Eve enjoyed peace and security -- safe within the reach of their Creator and Head. But when God was not present, the devil tempted Adam to sin -- thus causing the body, the created, to fight against the head, our Creator -- like cancer against a healthy organ. (Gen 3:1-7)

From that day on, the creature has rebelled against the rule of his and her Creator. The relationship as it was meant to be was ruined, and mankind was driven from the presence of God, given only glimpses of God's glory -- until Jesus. (Gen 3:23-24)

Jesus came to restore that relationship of the Creator with His creation: to win a people back to God; to snatch God's chosen ones from the grip of sin and death; and, to claim victory over the evil one. (1 Cor 15:22; Jn 3:16)

This restoration was costly for the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), and only the death of a sinless one could cover the debts of sinners (2 Cor 5:21). Jesus Himself was that once-and-for-all perfect sacrifice (Rom 3:23-26; 1 Jn 2:2). He paid for our sins with His own life (1 Jn 4:10).

But if He had remained in the grave His mission would've failed. Death would've proven itself victorious and we would have no reason for hope. Our God would've shown Himself powerless to save.

And so Paul was quick to tell us that Jesus is risen! God's power is sufficient to win the victory over death! Jesus' resurrection brought an end to the sting of death and opened the door for eternal life to all who believe (1 Cor 15:20-22, 56-57).

Jesus became our Savior when He rose from the dead -- conquering sin and death.

But the story didn't end there.

Jesus' work was not yet complete, for, even as His resurrection made Him Savior, His ascension made Him Lord (Phil 2:9-11). It was His ascension into heaven, the culmination of His resurrection, which again put Jesus in relationship with His people as their Head. The healthy connection between the head and body (God's chosen people) was restored when Jesus was exalted to the right hand of God the Father and crowned King of kings.

Jesus, upon His ascension, and even now, sits in the seat of authority, ruling in love over a people chosen to be His body -- bought by His own blood. (Gal 2:20; 1 Cor 6:19b-20a)

His ascension, accomplished through the power of the Father, sounded the victory bell over Satan. All that waits is the final judgment; for Christ's coronation secures our restoration.

Now, as Paul spoke of Jesus' ascension, he wanted to leave no room for doubt or concern among the people at Ephesus. For, Paul knew how easy it was for false teachers to lure God's people

into a false sense of security, presenting them with an alternative savior and lord. So Paul said that Jesus alone sits at the right hand of the Father.

And Paul was building upon an image that was common in Paul's day. In the culture of Paul's day, it was understood that those who sat at the right hand of a king ruled with all the authority of the king himself. In fact, at the time of the writing of this letter one could see statues which depicted a king or ruler seated at the right hand of a guardian deity -- for it was believed that the gods were regional, with each god watching over certain areas, and so to seat a king to the right of his guardian deity would be a way of authenticating the king's authority.

And so, many believed that the king of a territory ruled as a representative of the god of that territory, having in himself almost god-like qualities -- such as was once the view in Egypt of the Pharaoh, and later, in Rome of the Caesar.

With this in mind, Paul wrote that Jesus, the Christ, is at the right hand of the one true God. And even more, He has been exalted high above any other authority, or rule, or power, or dominion, or any name that can be named from eternity past to eternity future. Jesus has been enthroned as King and Lord over all. There is none equal or superior -- never has been, never will be!

The believers at Ephesus, living among pagan peoples, needed to hear this truth and cling to it with confidence if they were to be His body.

The church today needs to hear it as we face the challenges and threats of the many ideologies of our world that deny the existence and uniqueness of the one and only sovereign God who has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And so, in Paul's prayer, he left no room for debate -- Jesus, and He alone, is Lord over all.

Yet, Paul said even more. Jesus is not only Lord over all creation, but He is head over his church, so that His church alone can be identified as His body. Only those who put their trust in Jesus are part of His body, with Jesus as their sovereign, loving head. In turn, His body, the church, can live in the confidence that we're connected with the Father through Christ.

Now Jesus' ascension demonstrates the power of God, and puts us in union with that power, but the consequences of the ascension and enthronement of Jesus don't end there. Jesus' ascension means that now we have an Advocate, One who continually defends our cause before the Father, interceding on our behalf. (Rom 3:34)

The apostle John reminds us that even when we sin, if we repent, we have One who pleads our case before the Father, exerting His influence upon the Father, not as one who must beg for mercy, but as the only one who can approach the Father with the authority to demand a response.

Even little children understand this concept. They know that if they did something wrong and caused one parent to be disappointed with them, the best way to help their cause is to gain an ally. And the best ally is one who has the same authority as the disgruntled parent so that their intercessor might have success.

When Jesus defends our case, the Father forgives us, not because of some clever scheming on our part, but because of His deep love for His Son, and for us. And, because His Son paid the price necessary to allow for the forgiveness of our sinful behavior.

So Jesus is our advocate. And the scriptures make clear that we need an advocate because we have an accuser (Rom 12:10). The Devil is always seeking to destroy our faith and our desire and ability to live for Jesus. And the best way he can destroy our faith is to raise doubts in our minds about God's ability and our acceptability.

Satan is to our security and confidence in Christ what Mr. Smith was to my English composition papers back in High school. Mr. Smith was ruthless. He would find any and every mistake and circle it in red, demanding that I do it over until it was perfect, and I mean perfect. The margins had to fit his grid,

no cross-outs were allowed, even the slightest slip of the pen meant you had to start over -- and that was before he even got to checking the grammar or punctuation.

Likewise -- and this is certainly not meant to equate teachers with the devil ☺ – Satan picks away at us, always accusing us, always showing us our faults, not so that we may get better, but so that we would become discouraged. Satan's goal is that we become deceived into thinking that we must first work harder and get better in order to be acceptable to God.

And there is some truth to Satan's schemes, which makes them so deadly. For the truth is: we are not good enough to deserve God's love and acceptance. Our "homework", so to speak, will never be perfect, and that is why Jesus did His. And that is why we need an advocate, a Lord and King who is active on His throne, interceding on our behalf.

And so, in Jesus' ascension we have an Advocate.

Jesus' ascension is also a source of comfort and hope, for, when He ascended into heaven He went to prepare a place for us as well. As the Son of Man -- One who was of flesh and blood just like us -- Jesus went before us serving as a pledge and guarantee – the "firstfruits" -- that we too will one day be with Him. (1 Cor 15:20, 23)

The very same God who raised Jesus from the dead and restored Him to His position of honor, will raise us up and restore us to a position of honor as those re-created in His image and likeness. (2 Cor 5:17; 1 Thess 4:13-18)

When Jesus was about to leave His disciples, He knew that they would be frightened and discouraged, uncertain in a world hostile to their beliefs. So He said to them.

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."** (Jn 14:1-3)

There's something comforting about going home. We can endure all kinds of trails, challenges and obstacles; we can love and serve even when we don't feel like it; we can sacrifice to right-a-messed-up-world as we journey through life; and we can do all this with compassion and perseverance, when we know we have a home that awaits us, that will welcome us, that is filled with unconditional love and incomparable peace (Rom 8:38-39).

The ascension of Jesus is that source of comfort and encouragement to all believers, even in the face of hurt, loneliness, sickness, and death, because we know that our loving Father has saved a place in His home for us (Rev 21:1-7).

And so Jesus' ascension secures for us our eternal destiny.

And, Jesus' ascension allows us to experience His presence in and with us – always and at all times (Mt 28:20; Heb 13:5b).

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have Jesus with you in the flesh? We seem to think that somehow things would be so much better; that it would be a whole lot easier to be a Christian if only Jesus were with us. In truth, it would be much harder. If you don't think so just look at how the disciples responded when Jesus walked among them. Consider their response to Jesus' call to obedience before and then after the ascension.

Before His ascension, Jesus was limited in what He could do, where He could be, and how He could influence people. But, upon His enthronement as head over the church, with all things put in subjection under His feet, He could send another who would perfectly represent Him even as Jesus perfectly represented the Father. Jesus' ascension enabled Him to send the Holy Spirit, our Teacher, Counselor and Comforter, so that Jesus could be with all His people at all times through the Holy Spirit -- who is Himself in very nature, God (Jn 14:26, 16:7).

With the sending of the Holy Spirit, Christ's work and power were no longer restrained by the limitations of a human body. Through the Holy Spirit, God works in the lives of all His children, at all times -- always strengthening, always encouraging, always protecting God's own.

The Holy Spirit works to help us to love and serve God and others in a way Jesus couldn't work, for Jesus, during His time on earth, worked from the outside-in, but, the Spirit of God works from the inside-out.

The Holy Spirit was an active part of the Trinity from all eternity, but now, with Jesus' work of redemption completed, and with His subsequent enthronement as Head over the church, the Spirit of God has been set free to work in a new way. With God's Spirit working in and through us we're empowered to do even greater things than Jesus could do, for we, the church around the world, function as one body, united in Christ, able to bring God's message to all the world (Jn 14:12).

We, the church, are the fullness of Christ for, we are the fruit of His sacrifice, and our obedience and undivided love are a means of honoring Jesus in our world. As we love and serve Jesus in faith, the fruit of our ministry adds to the fullness of His glory. Thus, we partake in the glory of our King.

Such is God's power -- a power that raised His only begotten Son from the dead and exalted Him as Lord of all and head over His church -- a power that God makes available to us through His Spirit.

And so, Paul prayed that we, along with the church at Ephesus, might comprehend the implications of having Christ as our head. Paul prayed that we might know the joy, hope, and true security which His head-ship guarantees, so that we might respond with faithful obedience to the praise of His holy name.

As we worship our God amidst a world filled with turmoil and hardship, and a world torn by war and threats of war, let us be thankful for our hope, and let us be faithful in our prayers, knowing that we pray in the name of the One who sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Let us pray for peace. Let us pray for the spread of the Gospel -- in word and in deed. And let us live our faith with confidence and courage, knowing that Christ's coronation secures our restoration -- today and for all eternity.

God's grace and peace be with you,

Pastor John

### October Birthdays

10/2 Daniel McAuley  
10/9 Andy Miller  
10/13 Kelly Valerio  
10/19 Sue Laz  
10/21 Natalie & Alida Sceccitano  
10/22 Declan Reynolds  
10/23 Peter Laz  
10/26 Marcella Goard

### October Anniversaries

10/5 Sal & Deb Sceccitano  
10/6 Jack & Joan Wocher  
10/25 Natalia & Bill Multunas



### **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 October we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly.**



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



## Remember in Prayer...

### Our Shut-ins at home:

Tillie Herman, Marcella Goard, June Giles

**At the Eddy:** Dot Multunas, Edna Wells

### 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:

That he will lean on God in the tough times  
  
That he will welcome the times of transition  
as times to grow in his faith and trust  
  
That the school year would start off well  
  
For safe travels for team members who have  
yet to arrive  
  
For good health  
  
For internet service to function well

### Our college students:

Brian Giddings (Roger Williams)  
Abigail McAuley (Boston College)  
James McAuley (Albany Law School)  
Joshua Multunas (Gordon Conwell)  
Alida Sceccitano (Boston College)  
Natalie Sceccitano (Houghton)  
Angelina Solomon (SUNY Albany)  
Serena Solomon (Coastal Carolina)

## Veteran's Day



During the worship service on **November 12<sup>th</sup>** we will be recognizing service personnel who have served or are currently serving in the military.

To include someone in this recognition please call the church office at 283-2420 with their name, branch of service and dates of service.

## Youth For Christ Annual Banquet

Youth for Christ will be holding their Annual Banquet on **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 pm at their Adventure Center, 1544 Route 9 in Halfmoon.** Come and enjoy a delicious meal and hear more about the ministry of YFC and how they are impacting the lives of young people in our communities.

There are eight free tickets available. If you would like to attend please speak with Peter Laz.

## Growing as Disciples



As we move into the Fall the growing season ends as far as our gardens are concerned. For the Christian, however, the growing season never ends. We are to be continually learning and growing in our love of and knowledge of God. We are to continually grow in love, in obedience and in service to Christ and His church.

So, during these coming months of colder temperatures and shorter days what is your plan for continued growth? Perhaps you will commit to making worship attendance a priority. You could join the adult Sunday school class or one of the Bible studies offered. Perhaps you will join in one of our times of gathering together for prayer. You could check out some of the resources in the church library to read.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider your participation in one or more of these opportunities with the goal of nurturing your faith and growing in your walk with the Lord so that together we might all grow in our love for the Lord for our good and for His glory.

If you have any questions or would like more information, or if there is a topic you would like to learn more about, please speak with Sue Laz or Pastor John.

## General Financial Update for August 2017

	Year to Date	August
Total Income	\$108,715.00	\$12,346.00
Total Expenses	\$113,459.44	\$14,540.11
Difference	( \$4,744.44)	( \$ 2,194.11)

## 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 ministry of Third Church:

There are two opportunities to gather together with others to pray - **every Sunday morning from 8:30 – 9:00 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 12:30 – 1:00**. The focus of these times 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. Some 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.



## Serving This Month

### October 1<sup>st</sup>

Worship Assistants: Eric and Jesse Ofori  
Greeters: Dean and Doris Calamaras  
Head Greeters: Peter Laz  
Nursery: Jen McAuley and Alice Bentley  
Communion: Jerry Whitman  
Fellowship Hosts: Russell Family

### October 8<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistants: Bill Multunas and Natalia Multunas  
Greeters: Deena Dominy  
Head Greeter: Andy Miller  
Nursery: Megan Laz and Lois Pasinella  
Communion: Jason Laz, Jen McAuley, Natalia Multunas, Pat Gilmaier  
Fellowship Hosts: Pot Luck Luncheon

### October 15<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy, Sue Laz  
Greeters: Joe Pasinella and Jen McAuley  
Head Greeter: Rob Jensen  
Nursery: Diane Lewinski and Ella Miller  
Communion: Rick Russell, Rob Jensen, Peter Laz, Jerry Whitman  
Fellowship Hosts: Sue Stier

### October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Worship Assistants: Sue Laz and Ella Miller  
Greeters: Alice Bentley and Pat Gilmaier  
Head Greeter: Peter Laz  
Nursery: Jaime Miller and Deena Dominy  
Communion: Sue Laz, Vera Whitman, Alice Bentley, Andy Miller  
Fellowship Hosts:

### October 29<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistants: Kelly Valerio and Connie Russell  
Greeters: Bill Multunas and James McAuley  
Head Greeter: Andy Miller  
Nursery: Jen McAuley and Megan Laz  
Communion: Bill Multunas, Dean Calamaras, Deena Dominy, Doris Calamaras  
Fellowship Hosts: Valerie Bidwell and Vaughn Skarzynski

## 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 76. Which is the Ninth Commandment?**

The Ninth Commandment is, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

**Q 77. What is required in the Ninth Commandment?**

The Ninth Commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between one person and another, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

**Q 78. What is forbidden in the Ninth Commandment?**

The Ninth Commandment forbids whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbor's good name.

**Q 79. Which is the Tenth Commandment?**

The Tenth Commandment is, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is your neighbor's."

**Q 80. What is required in the Tenth Commandment?**

The Tenth Commandment requires full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor and all that is his.

**Q 81. What is forbidden in the Tenth Commandment?**

The Tenth Commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

### Pot Luck Luncheon Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

During our regular fellowship time on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> we will have a pot luck luncheon. Bring your favorite dish to share and join us for a time of fellowship.



### Serving at the Capital City Rescue Mission October 21<sup>st</sup>

We have the privilege to minister to those in need by helping to serve the evening meal at the Capital City Rescue Mission. We will meet at the church around 5:00 and carpool or you can meet us at the Mission around 5:30. Serving involves ensuring the tables are set for dinner, serving the meal, and cleaning up the tables afterwards. If you can help please speak with Andy Miller or Rob Jensen.



### 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 would like to be a part of the nursery ministry please speak with Sue 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 Perry Jones (Capital City Rescue Mission)** – “Thank you so much brothers and sisters at Third Pres. I am so encouraged by your help!”

**From Kevin Post (Capital District YFC)** – “One of our leaders wrote, ‘While at a multi-day event, one high school boy, who was saved only at the end of June, asked if we could go back to our cabin and pray before we hit up the dance party because he thought he heard God tell him we should. As we all gathered in the cabin, I asked him to pray for us. He prayed the most heartfelt, deep, precise and meaningful prayer for each of his peers and I was moved to tears. This young man, 3 ½ months ago, was on suicide watch at Four Winds Hospital and through the power and grace of God was not only praying for his peers, but hearing from God to do so!’ Thank you for supporting YFC. God bless.”

**From Dan (in East Africa)** – “On our first full day back, I had lunch with my team leaders. As we discussed the summer and as we talked a little about our excitement for this coming year I was reminded of a lot of the high expectations that I had before leaving of the work that God is doing here. It was energizing to be back with team members who have a unified vision for this area; and all of us have an excitement and an expectation that big things are going to happen during this coming year. There’s a lot to be excited about regarding the work God is doing here and I’ve been reminded again how extremely lucky I am to be a part of it.”

**From Peter Halder (YFC Bangladesh)** – “God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good. We wish that we could have you among us and have a thanksgiving celebration for His grace and awesome things He is doing through you and your support. The schools and our government appreciate the impact YFC is making among the lives of students in high school and young people in the communities around the country. I am so thankful for your faithful giving to bring change in the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people.”

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.

## THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

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### ***From Music and AV Ministries...***

#### **Have You Found Yours?**

Place, that is? Have you found that meaningful area of service where your gifts, skills, and passions can be “deployed” to help build up the Body of Christ here at Third Pres? We BE the church. And as such, Third Pres isn’t a building we come to for 90 minutes on Sundays to soak up and *get* all we can spiritually. It’s a place for us to join in all the moving parts of that Body; to be part of something larger than ourselves as we seek not only to worship the Living God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength but to serve in particular roles in the building up of God’s Kingdom here on earth. Just a foretaste of glory divine, as the beloved hymn-writer, Fanny Crosby put it. It could be in the childcare or Sunday School rooms. It could be in the reading of Scripture and other worship assistant roles. Perhaps as an usher or greeter. Or is the care of our facilities--the stewardship of all God has given us--through the Buildings and Grounds Ministry beckoning you? Is it to lift your voice in song through the choir? Play an instrument or sing as part of our Acoustic Worship Team. Or maybe it’s an “ear for sound” you have and would find meaningful service on our audio team. Pressing a computer keyboard spacebar is the one requirement to do video (ah, but knowing when to do that is the *art!*). Is God calling you to serve on our Elder board. Should you be serving on one of our numerous committees: Inward, Outward, Upward! Personnel, Finance, Nominating... There truly is something for everyone. But *you* have to take the step to figure out where your place should be. There’s a few things in there I could help you with! And for all the others, there’s a host of folks ready to do the same. Find your place, and help make Third Pres be all that it can be!

With joy in the journey,  
*Sal Sceccitano*

## SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

**ACTION ITEMS** - A motion was made and carried unanimously to approve the use of Post Memorial Hall on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, for a Gideons International Auxiliary Prayer Meeting, from 9 AM-12:30 PM.

**CLERK'S REPORT** - All correspondence received has been previously routed to the appropriate Committee or person, or posted in the office.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### UPWARD MINISTRY

##### WORSHIP & PRAYER

- World Communion is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Sal Scechitano is creating a slideshow of our mission partners to show during worship.
- We will recognize veterans on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- We will begin a new prayer time during the children's Sunday School time after worship.

#### INWARD MINISTRY

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE** - Visitation, phone calls, and cards are an ongoing ministry. Thanks to Jerry & Vera Whitman and Alice Bentley for the work they do in this area.

#### CHRISTIAN NURTURE

- Men's & Women's Bible study groups to begin in the fall.
- 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 have a luncheon following worship on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Senior's get together is December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. More information to follow.

#### OUTWARD MINISTRY

##### OUTREACH AND MISSION

- Spending for August: Capital City Rescue Mission - \$500, Reach Across (Dan McAuley) - \$300, Bangladesh Youth For Christ - \$500, Capital District Youth For Christ- \$700, Church Around The World (inserts) - \$42
- The Back-To-School Fair was held on August 26<sup>th</sup>. We gave out a total of 66 backpacks with school supplies.
- We will be serving the evening meal at Capital City Rescue Mission on October 21<sup>st</sup>, leaving church at 5 PM.
- Planning for our Community Conversations is ongoing.

### STEWARDSHIP

**GENERAL FUND/FINANCE:** 2018 Stewardship time-line:

- 10/09/17 – Committee Expense Budgets due.
- 10/29/17 – Pledge Packets given to members.
- 11/05/17 – Commitment Sunday (presentation of pledges during offering)
- 12/11/17 – Final Session approval of entire 2018 budget.

**PROPERTY** - Repairs were made to the boiler.

**PERSONNEL** - Employee evaluations are in the process of being conducted.

**NOMINATING** - Election of Officers will take place on Sunday October 8, 2017.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** - We continued in our study and discussion of *A Gift Of Love* by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**NEXT MEETINGS** - 10/09 - Business at church at 7 PM.

## Bible Quiz for October 2017

At the end of the month of October and into the beginning of November we are doing a mini-sermon-series on financial stewardship in terms of our giving to the work of the church. Although the messages will be topical in nature and based on a variety of Biblical texts, two key chapters guiding the sermon series will be 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. And so, the following questions will relate to those two chapters.

1. True or False: The churches in Macedonia gave generously because they were wealthy.
2. True or False: Those Macedonian churches gave to the point where they still had enough for themselves so that their own comforts and pleasures were not interfered with.
3. True or False: Those Macedonian churches gave as Paul expected – first to the Lord and then to Paul and his companions in keeping with God’s will.
4. True or False: Paul urged the church in Corinth to fulfill their promise to collect an offering for struggling churches.
5. Fill in the blanks: “He who gathered \_\_\_\_\_ did not have too \_\_\_\_\_, and he who gathered \_\_\_\_\_ did not have too \_\_\_\_\_.” (NIV)
6. Fill in the blanks: “Whoever sows \_\_\_\_\_ will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows \_\_\_\_\_ will also reap generously. (NIV)
7. True or False: Paul said that each person should decide how much to give based upon a specific percentage established by their church because God honors those who give as they are directed regardless of their attitude since actions are all that matter.
8. True or False: Paul taught that if you give generously to the church God will bless you with such material prosperity that your socio-economic status will grow and any financial concerns will vanish.
9. Fill in the blanks: “God is \_\_\_\_\_ to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you \_\_\_\_\_, you will abound in every \_\_\_\_\_.” (NIV)
10. True or False: One of the reasons Paul called for generous giving is so that the recipients of such giving might give thanks and praise God.

## ***A Gift of Joy and a Message of God's Love***

Millions of children all over the world live in very difficult situations and long to know that they are loved. Since 1993, **Operation Christmas Child** (OCC) has shared the Good News of God's love with hurting children around the world.

Through simple shoe boxes filled with toys and other small gifts children receive what may be their only Christmas gift as well as the assurance that God loves them.

Boxes and brochures containing instructions on filling your shoebox will be available in the narthex.

Shoeboxes should be brought back to the church by **November 12<sup>th</sup>**.

If you cannot pack a box but would like to participate in this project you can give items that can be put into a shoebox. We can use small toys, stuffed animals, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, crayons, markers, notepads, flashlights and batteries, hard candy, etc. There is a box in the church office for donations. You can also give financially to help cover the shipping costs by designating your gift for OCC.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child or the ministry of Samaritan's Purse you can go to [www.samaritanspurse.com](http://www.samaritanspurse.com).



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

