

The Third PRESS



September 2017

“Enlightenment That Empowers”

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. 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. (Ephesians 1:15-19a)

Back in ancient history, when I was attending seminary, Jen and I decided to take a day off and just go into Boston and have some fun. At the time we were attending a church in Cambridge and every Sunday we would drive past the Science Museum. Well, this particular day we decided that we were actually going to go into it. So we went in, looked at the prices and decided to do something else!

As we walked around Boston we came upon the Art Museum. Since their prices were much cheaper we went there! Now this was my first time inside an Art Museum (and last to date), which was probably obvious to the regulars. Anyway, we were having fun being art critics – actually, I was having fun and Jen was keeping her distance from me.

I remember entering one room lined with paintings along the walls, and, as I stood next to a rather sophisticated looking lady I commented on the work we were both looking at. It was a painting from the shoulders up of a man wearing a top-hat. The painting was titled, “A Man in a Hat.” Well, I made some comment about the cleverness of the title and this woman looked at me with a scowl. I guess she didn’t appreciate my critique of Degas.

So there I was, looking upon some of the greatest artwork in the world with little appreciation for the value and beauty that surrounded me.

And such, I think, is how many believers live their life in Christ. And such, I believe, was Paul’s concern for the church at Ephesus. Did they realize what he had just said as he began this letter? Do we? And did they grasp the implications? Did we? For the apostle Paul had just finished a prayer of blessing to God for God’s immeasurable grace extended to Jew and Gentile alike: a blessing in which he presented the glory of our being chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and sealed and preserved for God by the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:3-14); a blessing which then moved Paul to pray for the Ephesians (Eph 1:15-19a)

And Paul prayed for the church because of his deep love and concern for the saints.

Paul was concerned that, as well as things were going for the church at Ephesus, they didn’t fully appreciate the significance of the honor-and-riches-and-power with which God was surrounding them.

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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

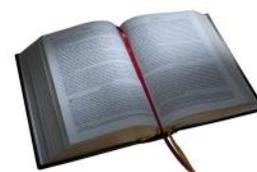
The Passion of the
Church is...
to be Spirit empowered
ministers of
reconciliation to God,
inviting all people to
faith in Christ Jesus
our Lord and
to holiness of life.

—
Our Mission:

To Love our God and
Neighbor

To Proclaim the Gospel
through Word and Deed

To Make Disciples of
Jesus the Christ



Sure, all reports that Paul was receiving suggested that things were going well for the church in and around Ephesus, and this was cause for thanks. Their faith -- rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ -- was strong and spreading. Their love for the saints -- the natural outworking of genuine faith -- was growing in depth and sincerity. Yet, Paul was well aware of the pitfalls and challenges that would eventually confront the church of Jesus Christ -- challenges and temptations that could cause doubt and disbelief.

He knew that a declaration of faith in Jesus was a declaration of war with Satan. The forces of evil in the heavenly realms, and the outworking of these forces in the vulnerable hearts of mankind -- Christian and non-Christian alike -- would do their best to destroy the church. So, in this letter, Paul was determined to do his best to inform them and to equip them so that they could face the challenges that lay ahead, and persevere in the faith.

And his best began with prayer.

D. E. Host, the man who took over for the great missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, wrote a book titled, *Behind the Ranges*. He was trying to analyze a problem he had seen while working in two different villages in China that were separated by a mountain range.

The people with whom he lived and worked were not doing very well spiritually. But the people in the other village across the range were doing better, despite the fact that he only visited them occasionally. So he began to ask the Lord what was going on. How could those across the mountain be doing better than those whom he disciplined daily?

The Lord showed Host the answer. Although he was spending much time counseling and teaching those with whom he lived, he spent much more time in prayer for those on the other side of the mountain. Host concluded that there were four essential components in making disciples: #1 is prayer; #2 is prayer; #3 is prayer; and #4 is the word of God -- in that order and in about that proportion.

Centuries before Mr. Host reached his conclusions, Paul knew the importance of prayer for sustaining the church. And so he prayed. Indeed, there is a direct correlation between the spiritual health of a church and the prayers of its people. In fact, studies on revivals show that great movements of the Spirit of God in the lives of people outside of the church were always preceded by great movements of prayer by people inside of the church.

And I believe this is something many of our churches today must consider. Certainly this is something I would like us at Third Church to consider. We say we want to grow in our own relationship with God, and, that we want to reach out to the lost with the gospel. But so often we fail to be faithful in prayer. Why is it that, although we know prayer should precede and support all that we do, we give it such a low priority in our personal and corporate lives?

Are we really looking to participate in a great movement of God in this community? Do we really want to see God bless Third Church with spiritual health and vitality? The bottom line is that it won't happen without diligent, earnest, concerted prayer on the part of our entire congregation! And so, I had to ask myself: Am I willing to do my part? And I need to ask you: Are you willing to do yours?

We already have a time for prayer every Sunday morning, but perhaps we need to look at other times where we can come together and intercede for the mission and ministries of this church, and the church around the world? However we do it, and whether alone or together, we must be a people who pray for the church -- for revival and spiritual health.

Paul knew that for the believers at Ephesus to maintain their faith in Jesus and their love for one another, they needed to pray, and they needed prayer. And, having heard of their faith in Jesus and their love for one another, Paul was moved to pray -- offering thanks to God for His grace working in the lives of the believers.

So prayer was important to Paul. In fact, some have suggested that if you want to understand the purpose and flow of Paul's letters, study his prayers, because before Paul approached the people with instruction, he approached God for direction.

Now, in this prayer, Paul focused upon “enlightenment that empowers” -- enlightenment that would give the church the vision and courage for the trials that lay ahead. And so, after setting forth the blessings of being united in Christ, Paul prayed that the people would be granted a spirit of wisdom and revelation and insight -- a wisdom given by the Holy Spirit; a revelation that would touch their own spirits and make known to them the glorious truths of God’s grace -- which would, in turn, empower their faith and sustain their love through all sorts of trials and testings.

Paul knew that the truths he earlier conveyed could not sustain faith if those truths did not move from the head to the heart. So Paul prayed that the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened -- that they would be given a spirit of wisdom and revelation regarding their knowledge of God. After all, Paul knew that theology was important, because theology involves knowing God. And Paul’s desire was that the church know God in a personal way – in a way that moved the people to devote their lives to God.

The truth is, we will never live for a God we don’t love, and we will never love a God we don’t know.

Too many Christians pay lip service to the need to know God but then fail to take measures to grow in that knowledge. We fail to pray for insight and guidance as we make decisions each day, and as we study God’s word. We acknowledge the importance of the teaching ministry of the church but the dust upon our-Bibles tell a different story.

I would encourage you to take advantage of the present learning opportunities at Third Church even as we look ahead to other times when we can gather for study and fellowship. And certainly, if you have any thoughts on what we can do, and when, please speak to me or one of the elders. For no one is ever too old to learn new things about God, things that will enrich our own life and the lives of others as we share our faith.

No one has ever “arrived” when it comes to knowing God. And so, Paul makes clear to us that unless we’re always growing in our knowledge of God’s grace extended to us through Jesus, we won’t be able to sustain a deep and abiding love for God and for each other.

But, he also shows us that growing in our knowledge of God is not about uncovering some secret mysteries that God is hiding from all but the most spiritual. Rather, growing in our knowledge of God is about recognizing the truths which He has already made available for us. For, it is not the case that God is withholding His blessings -- His love and forgiveness and power – instead, the real problem for us is that, more often than not, we can’t see them even when they are directly in front of us.

We are like the millionaire William Randolph Hearst, who once read of an extremely valuable piece of art which he decided he had to add to his extensive collection. He instructed his agent to scour the galleries of the world to find the masterpiece which he was determined to possess at any price. After many months of painstaking research, the agent reported that the piece had been discovered, stored in a warehouse for years, still in its crate, unused and unappreciated -- a warehouse owned by Mr. Hearst.

Likewise, we go to God praying for strength, when God has promised that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil 4:13). And, we ask for more love even though God has promised that His own love is already poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). We ask for peace – reconciliation and wholeness with God -- when God has already promised, “My peace I give to you” (Jn. 14:27). We ask that Jesus would be with us, when He has already promised never to leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). And the list goes on!

We, as children of God, are by nature one-with-Christ. He is “near enough to touch”, and yet we are like those two disciples who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-33). For whatever reason, we often fail to recognize that the Father of glory is among us, seeking to make us a holy people unto Himself -- seeking to strengthen us when we’re in the battle, and comfort us when we’ve been wounded.

What we need is not more of the Father, or more of Jesus, or more of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Rather, what we need is to have our eyes opened and our hearts made receptive to what God has

already made available to us -- to see and appreciate the riches that surround us; and then, to allow God to work in and through us so that through this enlightenment our faith may be empowered and our love may spread.

Paul prayed that such may occur for the church at Ephesus. He prayed that they would know: what is the hope of God's calling; what is the riches of the glory of God's inheritance among the saints; and what is the surpassing greatness of God's power for all who believe. (Eph 1:18-19a)

Now, as Paul reflected back upon some of the themes stated in his blessing to God in Ephesians 3-14, he shifted the focus from us to God. For the hope referred to here is not our feeling of hope, but rather the object of our hope – Jesus the Christ. Paul prayed that we would know the reality of that for which we hope – our new life in Christ. Paul prayed that we would live assured of our communion with Christ here and now, and of our glorious future in the presence of the one Holy God. And Paul prayed that this truth would encourage and strengthen the church.

We are a people of hope living among people whose lives are without real, substantial hope. Paul wants us to realize our hope, be encouraged by it, and then share the reason for it so that others might know the peace that is ours!

Paul also prayed that we would know the glory of God's inheritance. Again, the emphasis is not upon the riches that we would receive but upon God's inheritance, namely us, the saints. In other words, Paul prayed that we would know the value of being in relationship with God. The greatest gift God could give us is to be in relationship with Him. This relationship gives us worth! In Christ we are somebody! We are God's own children, and we share in the glory of our Creator. And this new position in Christ overshadows all the material riches we could ever possess, and all the worldly recognition we could ever achieve or receive.

Finally, Paul prayed that we would fully comprehend the power, the strength, the unsurpassed might of the One who calls us to Himself through Christ. We need not worry that the One in whom we trust will let us down, for He is able to do more than we can ask or imagine. We need not fear that the One to whom we pray cannot hear and respond, for there is no power in all creation that can defeat the power of God.

This is what Paul had come to know and understand, and he prayed that all the saints may have such knowledge -- and the wisdom to apply this knowledge in love.

I remember one Christmas many years ago when I received a remote control race car that was about 1.5 feet long -- the kind with a cord attached since this was before the days of radio controlled toys. Now, this would have been a great toy except for one problem, there was some assembly required, and I didn't have the assembly directions nor anyone who would help me assemble my car. I managed to get it working, but never to its full potential. I could get my car to go forward and backward, but that was all. I had to lift it every time I wanted to change directions. That got boring real quick.

Then, a few weeks after Christmas, my uncle and his kids came to visit. My one cousin used my car as a riding toy and soon broke off the rear wheels. I was especially upset because shortly after that I came across the directions and missing parts for my car, and I discovered all the things I could have done with it if only I had known. It would have been a great toy, if only I had known!

Sometimes our faith is like that toy car. We make some progress, spiritually speaking, but we get discouraged because of our limitations and failings, and, as a result, we question our faith and fail to live as we ought. We wonder what went wrong. We wonder why this "Christianity thing" isn't working as advertised. We wonder where the joy, the power, the peace, and the love are! In our ignorance we continue on under our own strength living a limited faith -- manifesting itself through a conditional love. We let things -- the struggles of life, even our own doubt -- so cloud our vision that we can't see God's promises. Promises which may seem distant but which are always within reach.

I fear that one day you and I will stand before the Lord asking: Where were you? Where was the peace when I hurt? Where was the comfort when I grieved? Where was the companionship when I was alone? Where was the strength when I was weak? Where was the hope when life seemed hopeless?

And then God will show us that He was always there, ready and waiting to shower us with His love, goodness and abundant blessings, but He was held back by our blind-eyes and hard-hearts. For you see, our faith will grow stale and our love will grow cold if we fail to use all that God makes available to us. Paul understood this danger and so he prayed that the church would know, really know, God – so that they would see Him and receive His love.

In light of Paul's prayer, for the church at Ephesus and for the church throughout the ages, let me ask you: Where are you in your relationship with Jesus today? Are you walking with Him but unable to really see Him? Are you praying for more -- more power, more love, more joy, more peace -- but failing to use all that God has already given to you – failing to appreciate all that it means to belong to God? Are you running through life under your own strength -- hitting obstacle after obstacle as if groping in the dark -- instead of entrusting yourself into God's care, instead of rejoicing with confidence in the hope of His calling, the glory of His inheritance, and the power of His might?

As you consider your own relationship with Christ, ask God to open your eyes to all that He wishes to reveal – ask God to grant you that “enlightenment that empowers.” And then commit yourself to using that insight to love and serve God and one another -- because the end of all knowledge and the goal of all insight is that we demonstrate of Christ-like love, for our God and for our neighbor.

Love in Christ Jesus,

Pastor John

PS: As we studied Paul's prayer and were charged to be diligent in our own prayer life, I want to exhort you to commit to praying for the many in Houston and other areas of Texas whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

September Birthdays

- 9/1 Philip Nolan
- 9/3 Sally Nolan
- 9/3 Kirsten Whitman Hope
- 9/7 Cassie Phelan
- 9/7 Joshua Reynolds
- 9/20 Ethan Whitman
- 9/23 Marie Whitman
- 9/24 Jaime Miller



September Anniversary

- 9/19 Deena Dominy & Howard Solomon

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 September we will be collecting paper goods (napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, etc.)

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

**General Financial Update for
July 2017**

	Year to Date	July
Total Income	\$96,369.00	\$16,356.00
Total Expenses	\$98,919.33	\$13,475.72
Difference	\$(2,550.33)	\$ 2,880.28



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:

For rest during his time off
That he would be able to prepare well for the
work ahead of him
That anxiety and stress will not be a
distraction
For continued spiritual growth

Serving This Month

September 3rd

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy and Dean Calamaras
Greeters: Pat Gilmaier
Head Greeters: Rob Jensen
Nursery: Jen McAuley and Ella Miller
Communion: Peter Laz
Fellowship Hosts: Multunas Family

September 10th

Worship Assistants: Sue Laz and Eric Ofori
Greeters: James McAuley
Head Greeter: Peter Laz
Nursery: Lois Pasinella, Alice Bentley
Communion: Jen McAuley, Rick Russell, Rob Jensen, Sue Laz
Fellowship Hosts: Wendy and Rob Jensen

September 17th

Worship Assistants: Natalia Multunas and Kelly Valerio
Greeters: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski
Head Greeter: Andy Miller
Nursery: Megan Laz, Deena Dominy
Communion: Andy Miller, Vera Whitman, Alice Bentley, Bill Multunas
Fellowship Hosts: McAuley Family

September 24th

Worship Assistants: Pastor John and Ella Miller
Greeters: Joe Pasinella and Alice Bentley
Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
Nursery: Jaime Miller and Diane Lewinski
Communion: Dean Calamaras, Doris Calamaras, Deena Dominy, Eric Ofori
Fellowship Hosts:



Growing as Disciples

Part of the work of the Inward Ministry Committee is to provide opportunities for the members and friends of Third Church to grow as disciples of Jesus the Christ. To that end we offer several time for groups to meet to learn and grow together.

For our youngest members we offer Sunday school classes after worship on the third Sunday of the month. We currently have two classes – one for pre-k through 3rd grade led by Sue Laz and one for 4th – 8th grade led by Bill Multunas.

We also offer several opportunities for adults to come together to support and encourage one another in their walk with the Lord.

The adult Sunday school class continues to meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings to study the life of Jesus.

The Wednesday evening Bible study meets at 6:00 each week and looks at the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.

As we move into the fall the men's and women's Bible studies will be starting up again.

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.

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 67. Which is the Sixth Commandment?

The Sixth Commandment is, "You shall not kill."

Q 68. What is required in the Sixth Commandment?

The Sixth Commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.

Q 69. What is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment?

The Sixth Commandment forbids the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tends thereunto.

Q 70. Which is the Seventh Commandment?

The Seventh Commandment is, "You shall not commit adultery."

Q 71. What is required in the Seventh Commandment?

The Seventh Commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart speech, and behavior.

Q 72. What is forbidden in the Seventh Commandment?

The Seventh Commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

Q 73. Which is the Eighth Commandment?

The Eighth Commandment is, "You shall not steal."

Q 74. What is required in the Eighth Commandment?

The Eighth Commandment requires the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

Q 75. What is forbidden in the Eighth Commandment?

The Eighth Commandment forbids whatsoever does, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's, wealth or outward estate.

From Music and AV Ministries...

See Something? Do something!

Disclaimer: This article doesn't have a blessed thing to do with music or AV! Please indulge me as I hijack my own "column" to share something important with you from my marketplace ministry as Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator for Rensselaer County.

On Saturday, September 23 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick St. in Troy, I am coordinating an all-day symposium entitled, ***"Bystanders to Upstanders--Stepping Up, Not Standing By"***. This FREE, all-day conference is designed to give civilians with no previous medical training or experience the emergency medical skills needed to make a positive difference to a sick or injured person while waiting for professional emergency responders to arrive. Taught by ER physicians from Albany Med and other Rensselaer County staff, we'll be offering sessions on CPR/AED, burns, allergic reactions, seizures, diabetic emergencies, car accident trauma, respiratory issues and several other medical/traumatic conditions or injuries. We are trying to shift the culture from one in which people reach for their cellphones to record such emergency incidents to one in which people actually step up and get involved. The average response time from 9-1-1 call to ambulance arrival is 6 minutes, and can be much longer in the more rural parts of our county. So much more can be done by civilian bystanders to insure a more positive outcome for the sick or injured if they just acquire some basic skills and muster the courage to do something--to *step up* and not just *stand by*.

You can register for this symposium by going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/MRC-Symposium or by calling my work phone #: 270-2633. Space is limited to the first 150 registrants and is first-come/first-served. And whoever said there's no such thing as a free lunch... Fake news! We're including lunch!

With joy in the journey,
Sal Sceccitano



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 for your generous gift to help hungry and struggling men and women in our community. A nutritious meal is often the first step to a changed life. Then safe shelter, good used clothing, recovery and discipleship programs help men and women set aside their despair. Finally, a message of forgiveness and new life in Christ offer them lasting and eternal hope.”

From Emerson (our sponsored child in El Salvador) – “I greet you with love and affection wishing you many blessings. I am in 7th grade. I like to go to school and learn about math, science and language. My school uniform is white and blue. I also want to ask you to pray that God will bless me and keep me this year and that I can get good marks and pass grade. I will be praying for you that God will bless you.”

From Dan (in East Africa) – “The past two months have been a whirlwind of flying to new countries, exciting ministry and new ministry opportunities, and chances to grow and learn in easy and challenging ways.

My first stop was Tanzania. There I was able to join with short term teams that do church planting and evangelism in unreached areas. It was an exciting time where I had to learn to trust in God and the truth of his message and not my own presentation or wisdom as I shared in a context that I did not understand.

After leaving Tanzania I went to Mozambique for a little over a week. I went there to observe a training that a missionary was holding for local leaders on leading their “fellowships”.

In July, I headed off to Indonesia where there wasn’t as clear a plan on what was to be done as in June. We partnered with a local pastor where we used our skills in teaching English to assist at the school where his wife was a principal. We also played some games with the students after school and shared some Bible stories similar to what might be done at a typical Vacation Bible School in the U.S.

Now I have some time off and am hoping to rest and prepare for the work that I will dive back into when I return to East Africa in a few weeks. After a tiring two months of travel and work I am looking forward to some much needed rest but I am also eager to get back to the country that I came overseas to work in and that I’ve grown to love in many ways.”

From Andy Lightcap (Capital District YFC) – “A young girl sits in a coffee shop having lost all hope. She had many questions but very few answers. Sitting across from her is Jackie, our Campus Life staff person. Jackie sat there and listened to what this girl was going through and was able to offer her hope through Jesus. The young lady cried as Jackie prayed with her and handed her a Bible. For the first time in a while someone was listening.

Just a few months ago a young man named Alex was deep in a pit of depression and was contemplating a way to end his life. It was at this time that a friend encouraged him to talk to one of our City Life Staff named Arthur. Arthur began to hang out with Alex and listened to him talk about his hurt and his pain. About a month after this first meeting Arthur stood with Alex as he surrendered his life to Jesus as his Lord and Savior.”

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.

SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-TROY, NEW YORK AUGUST 14, 2017

UPWARD MINISTRY (Encounter, Exalt, Enjoy)

WORSHIP & PRAYER

- Computer and software upgrades are complete and working well.
- Perry Jones will be preaching September 24th.
- Sal Sceccitano will be creating a slide show of our various mission partners for World Communion Sunday on October 1st.
- Pastor John is working on gathering/compiling resources to use for training officers to administer the Lord's supper in his absence.
- Choir rehearsal will begin again on September 6th, and in worship on September 10th.
- Member Recognition Sunday will be held on September 17th.
- Considering adding a time for prayer during Children's Sunday School.

INWARD MINISTRY (Encourage, Equip)

CHRISTIAN NURTURE

MEN'S MINISTRY/WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Men's and Women's Bible studies have ended and will pick up in the fall.

SENIOR'S MINISTRY

- Next get together set for Saturday December 9th.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The adult Sunday school class is continuing their study of the life of Jesus.
- The Wednesday evening Bible Study continues studying through 1 Thessalonians.

OUTWARD MINISTRY(Engage, Evangelize, Extend)

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

- Spending for August: Capital City Rescue Mission-\$500.00, Reach Across (Dan McAuley)-\$300.00, Gideons International-\$500.00, InterVarsity at R.P.I. and Russell Sage Colleges-\$700.00
- Planning for our Community Conversations is ongoing.

STEWARDSHIP (Upward, Inward, Outward)

GENERAL FUND & FINANCE

- We had a positive cash flow during July of \$2,880.28. This gives us a year-to-date deficit of \$2,550.33.
- We are beginning to put together the 2018 Stewardship Campaign.

SESSION DESIGNATED FUNDS

- The monthly income/expense reports for June and July were handed out a reviewed.
 - There was a brief discussion regarding doing some investing of all or part of the money in the endowment fund. Discussion has been tabled for the time being.

PROPERTY

- Both parking lots were re-striped by Rob Jensen.
- It has been determined that the City of Troy owns the red brick area in the supplemental parking area, which is labeled Old Winter Street.
- We are still in discussion and planning on the parking lot expansion project.

ALBANY PRESBYTERY

- There is a special meeting of Albany Presbytery called for September 12th at 6:30 PM at the Ballston Spa Church to deal with the question of staffing for the Presbytery moving forward.
- The next regular meeting of the Presbytery will be September 30th from 9 AM-4 PM at the Amsterdam church.
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PASTOR'S REPORT

- Will begin the Communion training of interested Officers at the end of August.
- We began our study and discussion of ***A Gift Of Love*** by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bible Quiz for September 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 fifth chapter of this letter.

1. True or False: Paul felt he needed to write to the church at Thessalonica about the dates and times of Christ’s return.
2. True or False: Paul suggested that upon His return the Lord would come like a thief in broad daylight.
3. True or False: Paul called believers “children of the light and children of the day”.
4. True or False: Paul said that because believers are “children of the day” they are free to “sleep” and in turn not be concerned with how they live each day.
5. What does Paul say believers are to “put on” to “defend” themselves against any attacks by those who walk in darkness?
6. Fill in the blanks: “For God did not appoint us to suffer _____ but to receive _____ through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
7. True or False: When Paul said that Jesus died for us, he was referring to Jesus substitutionary atonement.
8. Fill in the blanks: “Make sure that nobody pays back _____ for wrong, but always try to be _____ to each other and to everyone else.”
9. Fill in the blanks: “Test everything. Hold on to what is _____. Avoid every kind of _____.”
10. Fill in the blanks: “May God Himself, the God of _____, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept _____ at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is _____, and He will do it.”



Thanks to the generous giving of the Third Church family we were able to minister to 27 families at the Back-to-School Fair that was held on August 26th. We gave out 66 backpacks with school supplies and there were games, crafts, and food available throughout the day. Bibles and other age-appropriate devotional materials were given out with each backpack. It was a great day of ministry to our community!

Your donations of school supplies, money, baked goods, and your time and effort all helped to make this event possible.

Some of the backpacks were sponsored by:

Hazel Landry in memory of Anthony Houser

Joe and Lois Pasinella in memory of Anne Rymanowski and in honor of Delores Whitten

Jennifer Miller in memory of Ethel Miller

Peter and Sue Laz in memory of Jules and Lois Multunas; and Ted and Anna Laz

Sue Stierer in memory of her grandmother, Mary Colley

Jaime Miller in memory of Randy and Sarah Monroe

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