

# The Third PRESS



April 2018

I apologize for the lateness of this Newsletter. Unfortunately newsletter publication fell at the same time as Holy Week and I figured of the two it would probably be easier to move the date of publication of the newsletter. The alternative would've been to follow the Eastern Orthodox Church's calendar for celebrating Holy Week, but that would take more explanation. (Their Easter is usually one week after ours, hence April 8 this year.)

That said, I want to begin this newsletter with an expression of **THANKS** to all who contributed to a wonderful and worshipful Holy Week. Where to begin my thanks is a challenge, and who to include even more so since there is the risk of leaving someone out – not that it really matters to all of you since I know you don't serve for the recognition. Never the less, I do thank you all.

I will begin with the music ministry and thank Sal for his leadership and the many hours he put in to arrange the music, prepare for worship and guide the choir acoustic worship team, and a/v team.

I thank the choir for your faithful service in preparation for and participation in our Holy Week services – Ginny, Hazel, Holly, Jerry, Kelly, Natalia, Sue and Vera. I also want to thank our Acoustic Worship teams including with the already named Holly and Natalia, and, Jason and Lois, and for a one day appearance, Christian and Joshua.

Thanks to the audio visual workers including James, Jason, Jesse, Nora, and Steven.

Thanks to Bill who assisted on Good Friday, and Eric on Easter Sunday, and to all others who shared a role in serving during the week, sometimes more visibly as worship leaders or greeters, and sometimes out of view, like our nursery workers (Alice, Ella, Irene, et.al.) whose ministry helps others to participate in worship.

Between our worship gatherings – on that Saturday -- we had a great outreach event. A big thanks to Sue for making that happen and for others who came to serve that day, including: Andy, Doris, Jerry, Lois, Pat and Vera (Sorry your name keeps coming last, Vera – we need to recruit some Walters, Xaviers, and Zacharys ☺!)

And a big thank you to Peggy for making sure we had our orders of worship that we might worship decently and in order☺!

I know many others contributed behind the scenes with your prayers, gifts and participation, and I thank God for all of you.

Of course, most especially, along with you I thank the Lord for His great love that made this week possible, purposeful and pleasurable.

During the Lenten season and through Easter we examined Jesus' seven messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor, beginning with the church at Ephesus and ending in Laodicea. And through that study we reflected upon Jesus' words of condemnation, commendation and promised blessing for all who have ears to hear. In other words, we reflected upon church renewal and revitalization – personal and corporate – which is the theme your session is reflecting upon throughout 2018 as they look to lead us in the way of the Lord for His glory. To that

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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



end we have also been moving through the letter to the church at Ephesus in our newsletters as part of our corporate study. Continuing in that study I would like to spend some time reflecting upon the need for and place of prayer for the church as we examine Ephesians 3:14-19, and as we reflect upon the fundamental role that prayer serves in the renewal of Christ's church. But first let's first read Ephesians 3:14-19:

**For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

As we begin our reflection (or maybe better, as you are subjected to my reflections should you so choose to read on, which I hope you do!) I want to ask you: When you read the Bible is there a particular person who really impresses you – a Bible hero – not counting Jesus of course (not that we don't count God but if He isn't number one, then, "Houston, we have a problem!"☺)

I have many Bible heroes but two persons in particular stand out for me. They're heroes because they possess qualities that I admire and wish to emulate. One of these individuals is Barnabas, the teacher, inspirer and encourager. The other is his disciple and co-worker, the great evangelist and defender of the Christian faith, Paul.

Paul has been my hero and mentor since I first committed my life to Christ. Paul impresses me for two main reasons: first, because he was a great evangelist and staunch defender of the truth, a person who was willing to forsake all for Jesus; and second, because he was a great 'pray-er'.

When I first started to read the Scriptures I was drawn to Paul's letters because they were logical and prayerful. It's as if Paul couldn't talk to people without also talking to God. His letters are not merely instructions from one person to another, but are a three way interaction between his audience, himself and God. In Paul's letters, and especially in this letter to the Ephesians, it's as if we're allowed into Paul's 'inner sanctum' – his sacred place -- to glimpse his heart exposed before God.

Paul was a 'pray-er'. Prayer was such a natural part of his life that his letters reflect a weaving of instruction to his readers with prayer for his readers.

Paul was a 'pray-er', and for the second time in this short letter we find Paul praying for the Church. Paul moved into prayer at the close the first half of this letter, the half that has often been identified as the "theoretical" portion of Ephesians, and which prepares the way for the second half of this letter, the half that has been identified as the "application".

Paul moved from theory to application through prayer -- and even in that there's a lesson for us, namely that successful action for God is best preceded by faithful prayer to God!

In this newsletter, I would like us to consider the how, what, and why of this prayer from Ephesians 3 verses 14-19, namely: How does Paul pray as he closes this "theoretical" portion of his letter? What does Paul pray -- what is the content of his prayer? And, why does Paul raise this prayer to God -- what does he hope will result from his prayer?

And beginning with verse 14, Paul revealed the how of his prayer for the Church at Ephesus.

Paul said, "I kneel . . ."

Paul shows us his posture before God -- not just physically, but spiritually and emotionally.

Prayer for a Jew was usually done standing up. Kneeling before God in prayer was the exception not the norm. However, we do see this posture for prayer at times throughout Scripture, and when we do it reveals the heart of the 'pray-er'.

For example, when Solomon built the Temple he prayed to God, giving thanks and interceding on behalf of the people, beseeching God to fulfill His promise to care for His people. And Solomon called

out to God on his knees, in humility, because Solomon knew that he could not lead Israel alone – he needed God’s help. (2 Chron 6:14)

And when Ezra the priest prayed for the Jews because they had sinned against God by intermarrying with the peoples of surrounding nations, he knelt before God revealing a heart broken over the sins of God’s people. (Ezra 9:5-6)

And when Jesus met with His Father in the garden during His last hours He was on His knees earnestly seeking strength and comfort – knowing He was about to be abandoned by the Father for the sake of His people. (Lk 22:41)

In like fashion, and with a heart passionate for Christ’s church, Paul interceded for his sisters and brothers in Christ at Ephesus.

After explaining their glorious new position with the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit and because of the sacrifice of Jesus, Paul was moved to pray. And he clothed his words of prayer in garments of humility. Paul acknowledged that he has been part of a glorious miracle, a miracle of rebirth where Jew and Gentile are now one in Christ Jesus through God’s grace, which has been poured out upon all who walk in faith.

And as one who personally experienced such rebirth, Paul couldn’t help but fall on his knees in awe and thanksgiving before the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists. Through the bending of his knee Paul demonstrated the gratitude of his heart, the intensity of his concern for the church, and the honor due the One to whom he prayed.

Scripture doesn’t teach us that we must kneel to pray. Yet, sometimes the position of our body reflects the attitude of our heart. In the field of communication theory we call this “Body Language”.

Communicators, psychologists, psychiatrists and others study body language to help them in their professions because they know that often more is communicated through body language than through the spoken word.

And so perhaps we rob our prayers of the sincerity and intensity which should characterize them when we fail to stand before God with hands raised, or kneel before God with heads bowed, or even lie prostrate before God in a demonstration of our own vulnerability and dependence upon God.

Our posture in prayer doesn’t affect the ability of God to hear us, but it may affect our ability to hear God and our ability to express the true concerns of our heart -- for the posture of our body often reflects and directs the condition and passion of our heart.

Consider the young man who asks his girlfriend for her hand in marriage. Why does he get down on one knee to ask that woman standing before him to marry him? Why does he stoop down before that particular woman just to utter one short question? What’s more, why should he be the one stooping down, after all, she’s the one getting the diamond?

Might I suggest that, at that moment, he has no choice but to express with his body the love that he feels in his heart. For a short time at least, and hopefully for many years to come, he’s in awe that he could be so blessed as to have the pleasure of spending the rest of his life with her. His body is compelled to demonstrate the joy of his heart.

So also in this prayer: Paul was compelled to express his thankfulness to God and his love for God’s people by bowing the knee before the Giver of Eternal Life.

Now, having humbled himself before God in prayer, the question arises, “For what then should Paul pray?”

If you were praying for the church what would you pray? What would you ask of the One who can give-and-give-and-give with no concern of ever diminishing His ability to give?

Would you ask that none would ever be sick or poor or homeless or lonely?

Would you pray that God’s people would never experience war or famine or earthquake or disease?

These may be proper prayer requests at certain times and in certain situations, but for Paul, you don’t stand before the One who can offer you the greatest treasure in the world and ask for pocket

change. That would be like the crowd asking Jesus for some bread for a day when He had come to offer them the "Bread of Life" that would nourish their spirits for all eternity.

Paul knew what was of ultimate and everlasting value and in his prayer he asked for nothing short of the greatest gift God could give. And so Paul prayed for strength for the church -- supernatural strength: a strengthening that can come only through the power of the Holy Spirit; a strengthening and empowering by the Holy Spirit that would transform the individual, that would turn the heart of stone into a heart of flesh, that would put to death the sinful nature and open one's life to the living God.

And, Paul prayed for the faith of the church: a faith that's a gift from God; a faith that's rooted and grounded in love; a faith that allows the Christian to yield his or her entire life to the indwelling Christ.

Paul prayed for strength so that the Church may live by faith.

But what does it mean to have such strength and to exercise such faith? What does it look like to be so moved and strengthened by the Spirit of God that our heart's desire becomes to make Jesus Christ not just our Savior from the consequences of sin, but also our Lord in the living of our lives? What does it require of us to allow our lives to be so ordered by God's Word and will that God is not just a guest in our lives but that He has established His home in us, having free access to every part of our lives?

Robert Munger in his little booklet, "My Heart Christ's Home" deals with such questions and in so doing helps us to visualize what Paul was talking about when he prayed that Christ may dwell in our hearts. Munger pictures our lives as being a house with many rooms, where each room represents an area of our lives that must be yielded to Christ. In this metaphor Jesus is seen conversing with you and me, the owners of our house, as Jesus seeks access to, and, ultimately, control over the various rooms of our lives.

Munger begins by talking about the **Library**, a place where we cultivate our mind. As Paul wrote in "Romans", we're to be about the renewing of our minds so that we'll be able to test and approve what God's will is (Rom 12:2). And when we invite Jesus into our mind Jesus immediately gets to work convicting us of what we allow into our head, with the goal that every thought would be held captive to Jesus Christ through the working of His Spirit (2 Cor 10:5). And this may call for a complete, even painful overhaul of the 'Library' -- but it can and must be done if Jesus is to dwell in us, because there are certain things which we read or study or watch or listen to that should not be allowed a place in our heads. And so, practically speaking this means that we must be extremely careful about what we watch on TV, or what we view on the Internet. We must consider the words of the music we listen to and not just the beat! And let's be honest, we know that most of what passes for entertainment in our culture promotes values contrary to, if not adamantly against how God calls us to live. And so perhaps before we allow anything to enter our minds we should picture Jesus with us, and then ask ourselves, would Jesus watch this, or read this, or listen to this?

Most of us need to reduce what we absorb from the world while being diligent in giving a good amount of time to reading and studying our Bibles and to consuming good, edifying, God-honoring materials.

As Munger's metaphor moves along we find ourselves similarly challenged as Jesus enters the '**dining room**' where the lusts of the stomach are indulged. As Jesus looks at what we eat and how we care for our bodies, would He be pleased with our stewardship of ourselves? With what we let into us? Because how we care for our bodies impacts our emotions and spirits, and reflects our understanding of the right stewardship of all God's gifts?

Munger then speaks of Jesus entering the '**drawing room**' which is that room where we spend time with intimate friends. Are we building friendships with those who hold to godly values? And if we're making friends with others with the hope of ministering God's grace to them, which we should be doing, are we praying for those people and for ourselves -- that we would be influencing their behavior for the good, rather than having our behavior influenced for the bad?

As we move through our house with Jesus we next enter the ‘**game room**’ – that room that represents our leisure activities, hobbies and special interests. And as we open that part of our lives to Jesus, we’re reminded that Jesus wants to be a part of our leisure time. And so we must ask ourselves: Do we have interests in our lives that are drawing us away from God? Are our hobbies so consuming of our time that we have no time for God? Are we involved in activities that are actually becoming as ‘gods’ to us – sapping life from us rather than helping to nurture a fulfilling, God-glorifying life?

There are other rooms – the ‘**workroom**’ and ‘**bedroom**’ -- that we need to examine closely, especially in our materialistic society which has also diminished the beauty and sacredness of sexuality. Do we work for personal material gain or to enable us to have that we might bless others? Have we made our work an idol or have we set priorities so that we can excel at work without hurting our relationship with God or family. And, regarding sexuality, do we uphold God’s principles of fidelity in marriage between one man and one woman and chastity outside the covenant of marriage, or have we bought the lie of our culture that sex with whomever we wish (adults only, at least for now) and however we wish is fine as long as all involved consent? Sadly, sexual immorality is becoming one of those oxymorons that we laugh about – like “jumbo shrimp”, “act naturally”, “unbiased opinion”; except that sexual immorality is no laughing matter.

That said, it’s important that we consider one last room that Jesus’ visits in Munger’s story, namely, our ‘**closet**’ -- that room we let no one enter – that room filled with the dark things of our lives that we want no one to see, but that Jesus demands to see. Still, we stand before that door hoping to redirect Jesus to another room -- one that is less personal, less revealing, less shame-filled.

But even as we try to hide things in that closet, we know in our hearts that until Jesus is allowed into that space we will always be living with divided interests and a non-submissive heart, and, we will in turn be denying Jesus His place as Lord.

As the metaphor progresses and each room is approached we must decide whether we’re willing to yield that place to God’s guidance and will, or, whether we shall try to hide a portion of our life from God, pretending that Jesus is in charge but keeping ownership to ourselves.

If your life were pictured as such a house, what would Jesus find as He looked behind closed and sometimes even locked doors?

If your life were pictured as such a house, how free would Jesus be to roam the grounds, enter the various rooms, clean up the mess and rearrange the furniture?

If your life were such a house, would Jesus be at home there?

Paul acknowledged in his prayer that it’s only as such yielding in our lives takes place that we can really know Christ and the beauty, peace, and love that God seeks to share with us. Paul affirmed in his prayer that it’s only as we unite in love, letting the Spirit of God lead and guide us as His church that we’ll experience all that God wants to give to us in this life -- blessings greater than even health or wealth or personal success. After all, nothing in life can compare with the joy, honor and peace that comes from loving and being loved by God – and from experiencing this within the community of fellow believers.

And so, after showing us how to pray and revealing to us what to pray through his own petition, Paul helps us to see why he prayed the way he did.

Paul prayed so that the power of Christ might indwell us, so that “**we may be filled with all the fullness of God**”, so that we may experience God’s love for ourselves, and reflect God’s image to our broken world.

Now, we’re not gods, nor can we ever be gods, but when Christ dwells in us we can reveal and communicate the glory of God as no other creation of God can. With the Spirit of God strengthening and empowering us: we can be God’s hands to lift up the downcast, and strengthen the weak, and serve the

needy; we can be God's peacemakers amidst war, God's healers amidst sickness, God's comforters amidst disaster and God's companionship amidst loneliness.

We can never contain in ourselves all that God is, but we can so submit ourselves to God, and so open ourselves to the filling of His Spirit, that we might become His vessels for the revealing of a portion of His glory.

Paul prays that we may be filled with all the fullness of God, for this is the desire of our Father in heaven -- a desire that can be realized as we pray for strength to surrender our lives to the power of the Spirit and to the indwelling of Jesus Christ.

And so, after explaining all that God had done for the church to bring them to Himself as one body, united in Christ, Paul was compelled in the presence of God and on behalf of the church to pray.

And he prayed this prayer because he understood that all the knowledge of God that can be acquired and all the works for God that can be accomplished will mean nothing unless our lives are fully yielded to Christ -- unless Christ dwells in us by faith.

And he prayed this prayer because, in light of who God is and what He has done for us, it's this indwelling, filling and strengthening that's most important for us if we're to know God's peace in our lives.

Paul is my hero because he preached the gospel with boldness and lives were changed.

But lives were transformed not only because of what he preached, or how he preached, but because of what he prayed, and how he prayed.

Paul was a great 'pray-er' -- a humble 'pray-er'.

And it's my desire that we would become imitators of Paul in his passion for and approach to prayer. It's my hope that we as a congregation would come to be known as a people of prayer, that we would be known as people whose hearts long for God, whose prayers reflect the heart of God, and whose petitions so speak the will of God that our prayers yield, in tangible ways, the power of God.

Paul was a great 'pray-er', and he prayed for the Church at Ephesus. And, as we've looked at his prayer in Ephesians chapter three, we see that Paul's prayer is as much for us today as it was centuries ago for the church in Ephesus.

And so, may Paul's prayer for Ephesus become our prayer for Third Presbyterian Church. May we be so strengthened in our faith that we can grasp, in the very depths of our beings, how wide and long and high and deep is the love that Christ has for us -- that Christ has for you. May we know the joy, privilege and responsibility of being filled with all the fullness of God -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God's grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus,

Pastor John

## 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 April we will be paper products (paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, etc.)



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

### General Financial Update for February 2018

	Year to Date	February
Total Income	\$25,924.50	\$13,530.00
Total Expenses	\$30,869.36	\$15,820.26
Difference	\$(4,944.86)	\$(2,290.26)

### April Birthdays

4/2 Bruce Giddings  
 4/7 Rob Jensen  
 4/9 Natalia Multunas  
 4/11 Ella Joan Miller  
 4/13 Jennifer Miller  
 4/13 Matthew Giddings  
 4/15 Joe Hope  
 4/18 Irene (Ofori) Amponsah  
 4/26 Jack Wocher  
 4/28 Victoria Hope  
 4/28 Stephanie Miller  
 4/29 Jan Pedersen



### April Anniversaries

4/24 Mort & Beth Casey

## Serving This Month

### April 1<sup>st</sup>

Worship Assistants: Eric and Jesse Ofori  
 Greeters: Bill Multunas and Alice Bentley  
 Head Greeters: Andy Miller  
 Nursery: Megan Laz and Irene Ofori  
 Communion: Jason Laz, Jen McAuley, Jerry Whitman, Natalia Multunas  
 Fellowship Hosts: Ofori Family

### April 8<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistants: Pastor John, Kelly Valerio  
 Greeters: Dean and Doris Calamaras  
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen  
 Nursery: Jen McAuley and Lois Pasinella  
 Communion: Pat Gilmaier, Bill Multunas, Rob Jensen, Sue Laz  
 Fellowship Hosts: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski

### April 15<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy, Eric Ofori  
 Greeters: Pat Gilmaier  
 Head Greeter: Peter Laz  
 Nursery: Diane Lewinski and Ella Miller  
 Communion: Vera Whitman, Alice Bentley, Andy Miller, Bill Multunas  
 Fellowship Hosts: Jen and Steph Miller

### April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Worship Assistants: Bill Multunas, Dean Calamaras  
 Greeters: Jen McAuley  
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller  
 Nursery: Alice Bentley and Megan Laz  
 Communion: Dean Calamaras, Deena Dominy, Doris Calamaras, Eric Ofori  
 Fellowship Hosts:

### April 29<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistants: Natalia Multunas and Ella Miller  
 Greeters: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski  
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen  
 Nursery: Deena Dominy and Jaime Miller  
 Communion: Jerry Whitman, Jason Laz, Jen McAuley, Natalia Multunas  
 Fellowship Hosts: Wendy and Rob Jensen, Bruce Giddings



## Remember in Prayer...

### **Our Shut-ins at home:**

Tillie Herman, Marcella Goard, Jan and John Pedersen

### **At the Eddy:**

Dot Multunas, Edna Wells

### **Those dealing with health issues:**

Stan Bentley, Doris Calamaras

### **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:**

Pray that he stays healthy and that he would make the most of each opportunity.

Pray for the local believers that they would stand tall in the face of persecution and support one another.

Pray that he will have clarity in discerning God's plan for his future.

### **Our college students:**

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

## Bible Quiz for April 2018

As we move into April we will be beginning a new sermon series on Paul's letter to his student and fellow servant of the Lord, Timothy. Timothy was serving the church at Ephesus when he received these instructions so that many of the issues addressed and solutions prescribed pertained to the situation in that city at that time. Yet, as we shall see, there is much in this letter that is important for us to hear and understand – both for those who lead and those who share in the ministry of Third Church. As we begin this study, this first “quiz” will serve as an “overview” quiz of the entire letter. I encourage you to read through “1 Timothy” and then see what you recall as you take this quiz.

1. To whom was “1 Timothy” written (Consider this a momentum builder question 😊)?
2. True or False: In this letter Paul wrote that “the Law is good”.
3. What are the names of the two individuals of whom Paul said that they “shipwrecked” their faith?
4. True or False: Paul encouraged Timothy to pray for those in authority – even secular leaders.
5. Fill in the blank: “For there is one God and one \_\_\_\_\_ between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”
6. True or False: Paul instructed Timothy to have women learn in quietness and full submission?
7. True or False: “1 Timothy” contains directions regarding the character and ministry responsibilities of elders and deacons.
8. True or False: “1 Timothy” contains directions regarding the church's care of widows, laying out different instructions depending upon the age of the widow.
9. Fill in the blanks: “The love of \_\_\_\_\_ is the root of all kinds of evil.”
10. How many chapters comprise “1 Timothy”?

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

### **AN EASTER FEAST...**

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:14-- *And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*" There have been many debates about aspects of Christianity over the centuries but there seems to be no disagreement that the *resurrection* is its very cornerstone. Prophets and miracle workers have come and gone but no one has ever proven victorious over the *last enemy that shall be destroyed (death)* the way Jesus of Nazareth did. Paul might have teamed up with the teacher/preacher of Ecclesiastes to declare that without the *resurrection*, ALL is vanity.

I don't know if you'll be getting your hands on this newsletter on Easter or sometime after. Regardless, we're going to **sing** some extraordinary truths on Resurrection Morn. Lyrically, they represent a far great *Easter feast* than anything that can be whipped up on your dining room table that day. Take a closer look at these from a reading/meditation perspective, free from the act of singing...

#### ***Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (verses 2 and 3)***

*Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

#### ***Christ Arose (verse/chorus)***

*Death cannot keep his prey--Jesus my Savior,  
he tore the bars away--Jesus my Lord!*

*Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

#### ***Glorious (verse 1, chorus, verse 2)***

*Look inside the mystery, see the empty cross  
See the risen Savior, victorious and strong  
No one else above Him, none as strong to save  
He alone has conquered the power of the grave*

*Glorious--my eyes have seen the glory of the Lord  
Glorious--He stands above the rulers of the earth  
Glorious, glorious—Lord, You are glorious*

*Look beyond the tombstone; see the living God  
See the resurrected ruler of my heart  
No one else above Him, none to match His worth  
The hope of His returning fills the universe*

**Worthy Is the Lamb (verses 1,2 and chorus)**

*Thank You for the cross, Lord  
Thank You for the price You paid  
Bearing all my sin and shame  
In love You came and gave amazing grace*

*Thank You for this love, Lord  
Thank You for the nail-pierced hands  
Washed me in Your cleansing flow  
Now all I know--Your forgiveness and embrace*

*Worthy is the Lamb seated on the throne  
Crown You now with many crowns  
You reign victorious  
High and lifted up, Jesus Son of God  
The Darling of heaven crucified  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb*

**I Will Rise (verse 2 chorus, bridge)**

*There's a day that's drawing near when this darkness breaks to light  
And the shadows disappear and my faith shall be my eyes  
Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed  
The victory is won--He is risen from the dead*

*I will rise when He calls my name--no more sorrow no more pain  
I will rise on eagle's wings before my God fall on my knees  
And rise, I will rise*

*And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb"  
And I hear the cry of every longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb"  
Worthy is the Lamb*

**The Day of Resurrection (verses 1,3)**

*The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.*

*Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!  
The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;  
for Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.*

As we culminate our Lenten season and Holy Week with a joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection, the very *cornerstone* of our faith, let us be ever mindful of God's saving love for each and every one of us—a love that sacrificed his only begotten son for our sins, and the power to bring him forth from the grave in resplendent glory. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!

*With Joy in the Journey,  
Sal Scicchitano*

## Special Mission Offering

Beginning on Easter Sunday (April 1<sup>st</sup>) and running through Pentecost Sunday (May 20<sup>th</sup>) we will receive a special mission offering. In the past these funds have been used to support the ministries of Capital City Rescue Mission, Missing Link Ministry, Nate Smith and InterVarsity at Hudson Valley Community College, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

This year there are two options that you can choose to give to:

- support for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as they seek to minister to those suffering from natural disasters in this country and around the world.
- support for Joshua Multunas as he continues his studies at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a ministry of compassion and hope that responds to natural and human-caused disasters that would otherwise overwhelm a community's ability to recover. PDA works with congregations to bring hope and the healing love of Christ to survivors caught in the chaos of disaster. PDA currently has teams working in 25 states and Puerto Rico and in 18 countries around the world.

Joshua is entering his final year at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary as he prepares to follow God's call into the ministry. In addition to his studies, he is being mentored by his pastor and has opportunities to work and serve in various ministries at his church and beginning in May he will be participating in a 5-week overseas mission practicum in Dubai.

If you wish to give to this special offering, please make your check payable to "Third Presbyterian Church", note that it is for the mission offering and whether you want it to go to support PDA or Joshua Multunas.

If you have any questions, please speak with any member of the Outward Ministry Committee.

## 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 given 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)** – "Teaching at the school is going well. The students took their first oral exam in early February and it was an excellent experience for me.

My French lessons have picked back up and are moving back at the pace they should be. It has been good to be in consistent daily conversation again but it has been far more exciting lately because we have begun to daily read through and talk through the book of Romans in French. Though my vocabulary and grammar are often stretched beyond their limits in these conversations it has been an amazing discipleship opportunity. I am excited for each lesson to talk and share with my teacher, but what is equally amazing is seeing his excitement to read and learn more about his new faith!"

**From Joshua Multunas (at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)** – "Mentored ministry has already been helpful for seeing the demands of ministry and how easily it can consume your time. A lot of what I have had to do has been more urgent, having to figure out logistics and put together plans for worship services. These have largely kept me from engaging in the more important questions, such as, "How do we as a church bring Christ to our community?", and, "How do we change the culture of the church to have a greater external focus, rather than internal?"

I had opportunity to attend a regional Presbytery meeting, which was a really encouraging experience. I was able to see two men get ordained, and several more who are in the process, as well as hear updates from churches around the northeast, and missionaries around the world. Seeing the

general culture of heartfelt prayer, and emphasis on outreach, among the pastors and elders from numerous churches around the northeast really encouraged me that bureaucracy doesn't have to kill passion.

Please pray for me to be able to devote time to the important things."

**From Kevin Post (Capital District Youth For Christ)** – "Youth for Christ is working towards the day when we are annually engaging 1,000 lost 11-19 year olds with the gospel.

I have been considering how our ministry can make this giant leap forward. I am drawn to a passage in Matthew 7 where Jesus tells His disciples that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Matthew then records Jesus saying to His disciples that they should pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.

I am making a renewed commitment to daily pray to the Lord to provide the volunteers we need to bring in His harvest. Will you join me?"

**From Samantha Adkissen (Hope 7)** – "Thank you so much for your continued support of our programs and the families we serve. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful neighbors. Thank you!"

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## Urbana Mission Conference 2018

The conference will be held December 27 – 31 in St. Louis, Missouri and is open to students aged 18-25. In addition, there is a track for adults who are interested in mission. Please speak with Sue Laz if you would like more information.



## Serving at the Capital City Rescue Mission April 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.



## COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 – 2:00

The Outward Ministry Committee is once again planning for a Community Garage Sale this summer so as you do your spring cleaning begin saving the treasures you no longer need and plan on joining us on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is no cost to participate. Just bring a table and your treasures to sell. If you would like to use one of the church's tables please speak with Andy Miller.

If you would like to help out, we are looking for people who can help with set up and clean up and a few people who could man the food table and the church information table. For all you bakers, we are also in need of some goodies for the food table.



If you are able to help out or if you have any questions, please speak with Sue Laz.



**Calling all Kids  
Preschool - Eighth Grade!!**

Our next Sunday school class will be held **April 15<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service.

## **SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-MARCH 12, 2018**

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

- Miscellaneous Information
  - Reporting for the record the death of member June Giles on March 8, 2018.
  - Bill Multunas is scheduled to preach on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Andy Miller is scheduled to preach on May 20<sup>th</sup> (Pentecost), followed by Sal Sceccitano, Sue Laz, and Jerry Whitman.

### **INWARD MINISTRY**

#### **CHRISTIAN NURTURE**

- The Adult Sunday School class and Men's Study are ongoing.
- The Women's Study and Wednesday Study will be starting up again after Easter.
- We will be having a dinner and game night on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8PM. There will be a meal, a brief devotional activity, a time for games or other activities, and dessert.
- Pentecost is May 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a church picnic during fellowship time.

### **OUTWARD MINISTRY**

- Spending for March 2018: Hope 7 food Pantry-\$1,500, Reach Across (Dan McAuley)-\$300, Church Around The World Inserts-\$42
- Church shirts have been given out to all who placed an order. We will plan on doing another order in the future for those who missed the first order.
- We will be serving the evening meal at Capital City Rescue Mission on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Spring Mission Offering will be received from Easter Sunday through Pentecost with the proceeds going to Presbytery Disaster Assistance and Joshua Multunas.
- The Urbana Mission Conference will be held in December.
- The Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- We are looking to hold a series of events that will address questions of faith, such as who is Jesus, how can I know the Bible is true, what does it mean to be a Christian, etc. Our hope is that these events will draw in those who are unchurched, but may be seeking or questioning. We will be looking for individuals to lead those events.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

#### **GENERAL FUND/FINANCE**

- We had a negative cash flow during February of \$2,290.26. This gives us a year-to-date deficit of \$4,944.86. Short approximately \$500 per week.

**DESIGNATED FUNDS TREASURER'S REPORT**-Balance \$49,376.26.

#### **PROPERTY**

- Planning for parking lot repaving is underway.
  - Fund drive will begin in June.
  - Two other projects need to be completed before paving can be done.
    - Digging up and resealing the outer wall of the church by the side entrance, and having the City of Troy dredge the creek at the rear of our property.
  - Goal for the paving to happen in the fall.
- Looking ahead:
  - Hope to have a Spring workday in April.
  - Need to establish a 2018 lawn mowing schedule.
  - Lawn Tractor needs extensive repairs. We will attempt repairs but may need to consider a new tractor.





**Dinner and Game Night**  
**April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM**



You are invited to join us on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> for an evening of fun and fellowship. Dinner will be served at 6:00 followed by some time for fun and games and, of course, desert! This is a great opportunity for you to introduce your family and friends to your church family!

Bring your favorite game and a few friends to share in the fun!

Third Presbyterian Church  
115 Winter Street  
Troy, NY 12180

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

