

The Third PRESS



July 2018

“Unity in Diversity unto Maturity in Ministry
for God’s Glory, by God’s Grace”

As we continue in our Newsletter study through the New Testament letter to the church at Ephesus, this article will focus on verses 7 through 10 of chapter 4, which read:

“. . . to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

**‘When He ascended on high,
He led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men.’**

(What does “He ascended” mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)”

Paul opened chapter four of this letter with a call to discipleship, for Paul writes, walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called as followers of Jesus. Such a walk means that we’re to strive for unity, a unity that evidences itself in love and forbearance, humility, patience and gentleness.

And Paul then demonstrated this unity by presenting God as our perfect example -- the Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- three distinct persons of the Godhead yet one in essence, one in holiness, one in power and glory.

In like manner, all believers have been called and commanded to live united as one Body, worshipping one God and Father of all, who is over-all-and-through-all-and-in-all; and we’re to do so because of Christ’s sacrifice for us. For Christ died that we might receive God’s forgiveness and experience the joy of being children of God – one family in Christ -- indwelt by one and the same Spirit of God.

This is the exhortation of the first six verses of chapter four.

But then, as we transition into verse seven, we see that Paul’s call to unity also affirms each believer’s individuality -- an individuality that itself is established by Jesus. Indeed, it’s because there are a variety of gifts that are offered through the Spirit for the mission and ministry of the Church, that we’re charged to be united but not uniform -- alike in our purpose but unique in our person. And so it’s the grace of God in Christ which not only brings our salvation but nurtures our faith and enables us to experience a unity which grows through the exercise of our diversity.

Now the image Paul created as he envisions the Body of Christ is like that of a multi-piece jigsaw puzzle. On the cover of the puzzle box is the final product -- the picture we’re to produce. But to produce that beautiful picture

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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



each piece with its distinct size, shape and image must be joined to the whole in the proper manner. Likewise, the Church of Jesus Christ, with all its diversity, is to “fit together” in order to display the image of God to the world, to be as Christ Jesus to our world as we walk in imitation of Him. Together we’re to create a picture of Christ’s love – so that, through our love and unity within the body of Christ, and through our compassion for those outside the body of Christ, others might come to see, know and experience God’s goodness.

And so in verses 1-6 we have the command to walk united in love. And then, as Paul moves into verses 7-10 he develops a principle to support this exhortation – a principle which can be stated as follows:

“A command is only reasonable and binding if the one giving the command has the authority to make the demand, and if the one receiving the command has the ability to obey it.”

In order to illustrate this principle consider the following two scenarios.

Scenario #1:

You’re driving in stop-and-go-bumper-to-bumper rush hour traffic and as you sit in the middle lane of a 3 lane highway suddenly your car dies -- you can’t get it started and, with cars all around you, you can’t push it off to the side. Then, as you sit there a police officer on a motorcycle makes his way to you and tells you to move your car. As much as you may want to oblige him you can’t. The police officer has the authority to command you but you lack the ability to respond. And so, his demand, without an offer of help, would not be reasonable.

Scenario #2:

You’re driving again at rush hour, the car is running fine and you’re moving with the flow of traffic when the lady behind you starts flashing her lights signaling for you to move over so she can pass. Must you move? No! She may be signaling for you to move, and you may have the ability to move, but she has no authority to make you move.

And so we have the principle: **“A command is only reasonable and binding if the one giving the command has the authority to make the demand, and if the one receiving the command has the ability to obey it.”**

Now, applying this principle, to our text would require that two assumptions be made if the command “to be united” is to be valid. The first assumption that must be made is that Jesus doesn’t give a group of diverse people a command to be united, and then leave us to our own efforts – indeed, He never demands what He doesn’t enable. The second assumption that must be made is that Jesus, the One who gives the command, has the authority to make such a demand.

And so, in verses 7-10, Paul proceeded to address and prove that such assumptions about Jesus’ authority and ability are true – that He has met the conditions which in turn make His commands both reasonable and binding for all who seek to walk with Jesus.

To that end, the apostle Paul began by proclaiming to the body of Christ that Jesus has given us all that we need to live in unity, that: to each one grace has been given as Christ apportioned it so that we all can reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:7, 13)

And so the implication of verse 7 is that Jesus has blessed each and every one of us with His grace – a grace which empowers and enables us: to serve; to contribute to the health and growth of the church; to live according to God’s good and perfect will.

More specifically, the implication of verse 7 is that Jesus has empowered Third Church with all that we need to show love for one another and to be a source of hope to our community. We

have all that we need to be who God calls us to be – here and now. And if God chooses to call us to different and varied ministries in the future, we have the assurance that God will supply what we will need when we need it. For, as Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China in the late 1800's has stated, "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

At the same time, if we are deficient as a Church, deficient with respect to the love that we demonstrate for God and one another, deficient with respect to faithfully carrying out our current calling, it must mean that either Jesus gives commands that are not reasonable nor binding because of some deficiency in His authority or abilities; or, that Jesus' authority and enabling grace are sufficient, but we're choosing to disobey His commands, and/or we're misusing His resources.

Now Paul understood the heart of mankind.

He knew that we have a natural tendency to blame others for our own failings, to even blame God – to put the onus upon God suggesting that if only God would do more or help more or supply more then we could serve Him better. Therefore, Paul defended the authority and provision of Jesus as he addressed our responsibility to live out the unity we have in Christ through the use of the diverse gifts given to us by Christ.

And Paul developed his argument by referring to verse 18 of Psalm 68, a victory psalm of David -- a song of praise in recognition of the saving hand of God who brings victory, comfort and peace to God's people. The image of God in that psalm is one of a conquering King who goes forth in battle, subdues His enemies, releases His own people from bondage, and returns to His throne victorious, distributing the bounties of victory to His own people.

And Paul brought this image of God from the Old Testament and applied it to Jesus.

And so Psalm 68 serves as a prophetic word which identifies Jesus as that conquering king who delivered His people from the grasp of sin, death and the Devil, and who in turn gives gifts to His people.

Moreover, because He is the conquering king, Jesus has shown Himself to have the right to command obedience and the power to give gifts. Jesus is the King among all kings, the only eternal Lord, who, as prophesied in the 68th Psalm, descended into the earthly realms – having left his throne above to come and fight for his people.

Jesus is the incarnate Son of God – God-in-the-flesh -- who, as Paul wrote in Philippians:

**“Being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made Himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself
and became obedient to death --
even death on a cross!”** (Phil 2:6-8)

And it was through His sinless life and sacrificial death that Jesus earned the right to be our Savior. Jesus faced temptation head on and proved Himself victorious -- frustrating the schemes of Satan and overturning the sinful principles and practices of fallen humankind. Jesus conquered sin by living in perfect godliness. And although He was without sin, Jesus suffered the consequence of our sin on our behalf.

He was crucified, but no grave could hold him for Paul writes: **“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”** (1 Cor 15:20)

And so, Jesus is the One who not only left His throne in heaven to fight for His people on earth as God-incarnate, but who ascended to His throne as Conqueror, for we read further in Philipians:

**“God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.”** (Phil 2:9-11)

And this is the very thing Paul affirmed earlier in the first chapter of Ephesians when He wrote how:

“God raised Jesus 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.” (Ephes. 1:20-21)

When Jesus returned to His throne, the Father put at His disposal all authority to command our obedience and, all power to enable us to obey. Therefore, Jesus, the descended, incarnate Christ became the ascended glorified King – who is willing and able to do not only what we ask but immeasurably more! (Eph 3:20-21)

And so Paul has shown us that Jesus’ commands are reasonable and binding, that His grace is sufficient, and that God has supplied all that we need so that we can obey His word and do His will.

In turn we find that we are without excuse when we experience fighting, bitterness, apathy or disunity among our brothers and sisters in Christ; and, at we have no right to grumble against God when we fail to show forth the fruit of love and joy and peace, or when we fail to make a difference in our world for Jesus. We can’t blame our failings and deficiencies on Jesus. After all, our problem is not with the adequacy of Jesus’ enabling grace. Jesus has not withheld a piece or two from the puzzle leaving us intentionally lacking -- desiring yet unable to obey – unable to complete the picture. And, our problem is not with the authority of Jesus, that He commands something for which He has no right to ask or ability to enforce -- for He is the ascended Lord.

Moreover, we can’t even blame our failings on Satan. Crying out, “The Devil made me do it!” won’t help, because Satan has been defeated! He has no authority over the believer. Certainly Satan and his demons can be a nuisance, but they can never prevent us from doing what God calls us to do, and even more, from being who God calls us to be!

And so, when disunity arises, when pride shows its ugly head, when ministry bears no fruit, and when the resources to serve seem to disappear, often the one who is the true source of the problem can be found staring at us in a mirror! All too often the struggles faced by the church are due to problems created within the church. All too often we reject the power that Jesus desires to give us -- the power of the Holy Spirit which would enable us to love, forgive and serve as God so desires – and instead we plan and work under our own power. And all too often we use the gifts of God for our own benefit or for the advancement of our traditions and institutions, rather than for the advancement of the Gospel, and in so doing we pervert the purpose for which they’ve been given.

And all too often the church of Jesus Christ today looks too much like some of those churches that John spoke of in the first few chapters of the Book of Revelation, for: we lose sight of our first love; we take our eyes off of Jesus and find ourselves fixated upon the alluring enticements of our world – the latest trends, the current causes – even good things that cloud our view of our Great King; we adopt the secularism of our day that only allows for an anemic faith – one that won’t interfere with the affairs of the world – a Sunday-morning-and-no-more faith.

Now, we're not perfect, nor shall we ever be in this lifetime. We will abuse and misuse the grace of God. But, if we would open our hearts to the working of God's Spirit, if we would receive and use the gifts of God for their intended purpose, if in humility we would confess our sins when we corrupt or exploit those gifts, then we would more readily experience the unity, peace and hope which God promises and desires to give to us through Jesus Christ, and, then we would see the hand of God pouring forth His blessings on the church of God.

The words of Paul in our passage acknowledge the awesome responsibility of walking in unity with Jesus, and celebrating and utilizing our diversity as we walk together. But they also assure us that we never travel alone. The presence of the Spirit of the ascended Christ along with the support of the body of Christ can and will sustain us if we will receive God's grace and submit to God's authority.

And so Paul reminds the church at Ephesus, and us: that there is only one Body of Christ; that we have unity in Christ; but also, that the unity we possess can only be realized when we recognize our diversity and when we exercise our unique calling and gifted-ness for the benefit of the church to the glory of God.

Moreover, we will only be able to exercise such unity-in-diversity when we let Jesus be our Lord and allow Him to have complete and unreserved reign over our lives, thereby enabling and empowering us to serve with gladness and thankfulness knowing that He has the authority and ability to guide and direct us for the glory of God.

And so, as we reflect upon the apostle Paul's words and found in Ephesians 4:7-10, let's ask ourselves: Will I use the grace which Jesus extends to me to honor God and to promote the peace and unity of the Church – that God's people might be blessed and God's kingdom might grow? Or, will I squander my gifts for personal gain and self-glorification at the expense of my sisters and brothers in Christ, and, at the cost of the lives of those who do not know Jesus?

And as we consider our response, and the high calling genuine faith demands of us, let's remember that, one choice will satisfy our deepest longings, producing fruit beyond what we can imagine, but the other will leave us hurt and bitter, divided one-against-another, never knowing the peace and hope which the Gospel has to offer -- never knowing the thrill of seeing others come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Jesus has all power and authority to enable the work of the church for the glory of God and the blessing of God's people. However, in God's sovereign working He gives us the choice either to use or abuse the gifts of God's grace. And so in the end we're left with the question: What will I choose? What will I do with the unique gifts that God has given to me? How will I contribute to completing the picture of God's love that all may experience His grace?

Your faith family, and this lost world, but most especially your loving God awaits your answer!

God's grace and peace to you.

Pastor John



The Community Garage Sale in June was a huge success! It was a great day with many opportunities to meet and interact with people from the community and we received \$340.00 that will be used for the Back-to-School Fair in August. Thanks to all who participated!

The Spring Mission offering received a total of \$1,667.50. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will receive \$541.50 and \$1,126 will go towards Joshua Multunas' scholarship fund at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

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

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

During the month of July we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly.



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

General Financial Update for May 2018

	Year to Date	May
Total Income	\$71,700.50	\$12,959.00
Total Expenses	\$72,170.43	\$13,240.19
Difference	\$ (469.93)	\$ (281.18)

July Birthdays

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



July Anniversaries

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

Serving This Month

July 1st

Worship Assistants: Sue Laz and Eric Ofori
 Greeters: Bill Multunas and Pat Gilmaier
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
 Nursery: Jen McAuley and Deena Dominy
 Communion: Jason Laz
 Fellowship Hosts: Amoah Family

July 8th

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy and Dean Calamaras
 Greeters: Alice Bentley and Rob Jensen
 Head Greeter: Peter Laz
 Nursery: Megan and Irene Ofori
 Communion: Jen McAuley, Jerry Whitman, Natalia Multunas, Andy Miller
 Fellowship Hosts: Laz Family

July 15th

Worship Assistants: Natalia Multunas and Ella Miller
 Greeters: Dean and Doris Calamaras
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller
 Nursery: Deena Dominy and Diane Lewinski
 Communion: Sue Laz, Rob Jensen, Vera Whitman, Alice Bentley
 Fellowship Hosts: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski

July 22nd

Worship Assistants: Bill Multunas and Kelly Valerio
 Greeters: Pat Gilmaier and Deena Dominy
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
 Nursery: Alice Bentley and Lois Pasinella
 Communion: Bill Multunas, Andy Miller, Dean Calamaras, Deena Dominy
 Fellowship Hosts: Ofori Family

July 29th

Worship Assistants: Eric and Jesse Ofori
 Greeters: Jen McAuley
 Head Greeter: Peter Laz
 Nursery: Megan Laz and Sue Laz
 Communion: Doris Calamaras, Eric Ofori, Jason Laz, Jerry Whitman
 Fellowship Hosts:



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

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 for his summer plans.
Pray for his French teacher that he would
trust God and that God would meet his
needs.
Pray for his team as there is a lot of
transition at this time.
Pray for the local believers that they will meet
together and support each other.

Our college students:

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



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

Our next Sunday school class will be held **July 15th** following the worship service.

Bible Quiz for July 2018

As we continue through our sermon series on the life of Abraham and Sarah as presented in Genesis chapters 11 through 25, the questions from this quiz will focus on chapters 20 through 22.

1. True or False: Abraham plotted with Sarah to make it their practice to tell the rulers of the various places where he traveled with Sarah that she was his sister, while concealing the truth that she was his wife?
2. True or False: After taking Sarah to be his wife Abimelech laughed when God warned that to do such a thing would mean his death?
3. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? How old was Sarah?
4. True or False: Sarah sent Hagar and Ismael away because Ishmael was laughing at/mockng Isaac.
5. How old was Ishmael when Sarah had him and Hagar sent away?
6. True or False: When God first spoke to Abraham and told him to go and offer up Isaac as a burnt offering Abraham refused.
7. True or False: Abraham brought along a goat to sacrifice in place of Isaac just in case God changed His mind.
8. True or False: When Hagar left Sarah for a second time, God appeared to Hagar and told her He helped her the first time but the second time she was on her own.
9. Who told Abraham not to sacrifice Isaac?
10. What did Abraham name the place where God provided a ram for Abraham to slaughter in place of Isaac?

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 Joshua Multunas (at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) – “I have had opportunity to meet many wonderful people here (in Dubai) and I am really grateful to have come. We were able to help train upwards of 60 people in leading Bible studies for other new church members! One way I’ve grown has been in being a part of a team. We’ve really had to practically figure out how to consider one another’s interests before our own. Especially with having two cars between the eight of us, and most of us not currently living near public transportation, we have all had to make sacrifices to ensure everyone can get where they need to go. Soon I will be back in the States with my own schedule, my own car, my own budget, and I wonder what it could look like to practically be considering the needs of others before my own in the context of seminary. Please pray for me as I process what just happened, that I would incorporate the lessons I’ve learned.”

From Kevin Post (Capital District Youth For Christ) – “Thank you for giving lost 9-11 year olds an opportunity to trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We at Capital District Youth for Christ are proud to stand with you in the cause of youth evangelism. As the summer months begin and school is over until the fall, our YFC leaders will be taking teens away to week long camps, going on day trips and enjoying the warmer weather together. They will be sharing their faith in God and His Son. They will be leading teens into a lifelong relationship with Jesus. Please continue to join us in prayer for teens to say, YES to Jesus this summer. Thanks again for your support financially and your commitment to youth evangelism in the Capital District.”

From Perry Jones (Capital City Rescue Mission) – “Your generous compassion is helping to provide our homeless neighbors in the Capital Region with thousands of nutritious, hot meals, shelter and other vital care. Thank you. Your support of Capital City Rescue Mission is a true blessing to our entire community.”

Questions of Faith



Do you ever wonder...

If the Bible is true?

What God is like?

What the big deal is about Jesus?

What the church is all about?

The Outward Ministry Committee will be offering a series of presentations to answer these and other questions of faith. We would ask you to consider who you know that might be interested in learning more about what it is that we, as Christians, believe and then invite them to come with you to learn and ask any questions they may have.

September 16th, 6:00 – 7:30

“Is the Bible reliable? What does the Bible teach us about God and about ourselves?”

November 18th, 6:00 – 7:30

“Who is Jesus? Why is he important?”

Each will include a brief presentation and a time for questions and discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

Bring your questions and your doubts and find answers that will transform your heart and mind!

SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-TROY, NEW YORK-JUNE 11, 2018

CLERK'S REPORT - Miscellaneous Information: Average attendance for April 2018 was 43.

INWARD MINISTRY

MEN'S MINISTRY - The Men's group is currently studying the Gospel of Mark and meets the first Sunday of each month.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY - The Women's group is on break for the summer and will resume in the fall.

YOUTH MINISTRY - Back-To-School Fair will be held on Saturday August 25th from 11 AM-1 PM.

MISCELLANEOUS/FELLOWSHIP

- We held a Dinner & Game Night on Friday June 8th. The next Dinner & Game night is tentatively scheduled for August 10th from 6-8 PM. There will be a meal, a brief devotional activity, a time for games or other activities, and dessert.
- We will take advantage of having the tent from the Back-To-School Fair and have a church picnic on August 26th.

OUTWARD MINISTRY (Engage, Evangelize, Extend)

- Spending for June 2018: Capital City Rescue Mission -\$500, Reach Across (Dan McAuley)-\$300, Bangladesh Youth For Christ-\$500, Capital District Youth For Christ-\$500, "Church Around The World" inserts-\$ 42
- Natalia Multunas and Lois Pasinella did Minutes For Ministry on how they share their faith. Deena Dominy will do one in September. Our goal is to show that there are a variety of ways to share our faith and to get all of us thinking of how we might share our faith with those who don't know Jesus.
- The Community Garage Sale on June 2nd went very well. We had great weather and had a chance to talk with many individuals. We raised \$340 for the Back-To-School Fair.
- The Spring Mission Offering has received \$541.50 for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and \$1,126 for Joshua Multunas.
- The Back-To-School Fair will be held on Saturday August 25th from 11 AM – 1 PM. Planning for that is underway.
- We are looking to hold a series of events that will address questions of faith. The first topics will be:
 - The Bible: Is it reliable? How do we know it's true? What can we learn from it?
 - What can we learn about God from the Bible?
 - What can we learn about ourselves from the Bible
 - Who is Jesus?
 - There will be an introduction, the presentation, time for questions, and refreshments.
 - We are also looking at some ways we might be able to partner more with Nikki Campbell and her ministry on the college campuses.

STEWARDSHIP Upward, Inward, Outward)

GENERAL FUND/FINANCE

- We had a negative cash flow during May 2018 of \$281.19. This gives us a year-to-date deficit of \$469.93.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Business – July 9th at church at 7 PM. Please read **Holiness** by J. C. Ryle, chapter 9, "Growth In Grace", pages 128-152.

From Music and AV Ministries...

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE...

--one of the great "wild cards" of *Robert's Rules of Order* that I became all too familiar with during my year as Moderator of Albany Presbytery in 2014. Basically, someone stands up, raises a hand--all the while realizing they're probably *out of order*--and invokes a "point of personal privilege" to say whatever they wanted to say anyway, hopefully circumventing the Moderator actually ruling them *out of order!* So, now I'm employing it as a strategy of my own, hijacking my own music/AV "column" to clue you into a more personal matter. (And if you're reading this, I guess Pastor John didn't rule it *out of order!*)

It goes without saying that as we all get older (hopefully, that's not breaking news!) we start to experience the inevitable aches, pains, creaks and groans that accompany the wearing out of our "original manufacturer's parts." Doctors will sometimes humor us about these natural progressions like when my former orthopedist diagnosed my right knee problem as *OMRD*--"Old Man's Running Disease." Thanks, Doc--how much was that copay again?! Well, for the last 2½ years I've been having more and more pain and difficulty with my *right thumb*--technically called *osteoarthritis of the basal joint*. At first, thankfully, I wasn't experiencing the pain when playing, but now it is becoming exceedingly "difficult and uncomfortable." In another stroke of medical genius, my current orthopedist informed me that "this will either get better on its own or not." (I've got to start thinking about a career change!)

Cutting to present day, I've decided to get something done about this surgically, which is now scheduled for Thursday, July 5. And like any other good Italian, I'd naturally want a procedure that incorporates some facet of fine Italian culinary culture for good measure. Hence I will be undergoing the *Anchovy Procedure!* I know what you're thinking--BLECH, anchovies!!! (I actually really like them on my pizza--in moderation, of course.) This whimsically-named surgery will involve removal of the *trapezium* bone from the base of my thumb, the harvesting of a "dispensable" wrist tendon from my forearm, and the subsequent *rolling* of said tendon, *a la anchovy* into a ball that will then be inserted into the space previously occupied by said bone.

If you're still with me and haven't passed out, the recovery period for this is roughly five months. For a good part of that time my thumb, half my hand and half my forearm will be in a permanent and then removable splint/cast. I *will* be able to wiggle and use my other four fingers. Obviously, this is not an ideal development for someone who plays the piano and the organ! As far as the organ goes, I'll be getting creative with my left hand and feet. For the piano, it will have to be left hand and some dainty wiggling of those remaining right fingers. So it goes without saying you'll only have a fraction of a musician for a while. Please feel free to NOT complain!

All gallows humor aside, I'd really appreciate your prayers for this to be a complete success with a miraculously full and speedy recovery. Because after all, when I wake up after it and say, "Doctor, doctor, will I ever be able to play the piano again?", I won't be joking!

With Joy (and pain) in the Journey,

Sal Scicchitano

Back to School Fair - August 25th from 11:00 – 1:00



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

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

There will also be:

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

How can you help? You could:

- ❖ Provide cookies or brownies for the food area
- ❖ Donate school supplies (1,3, and 5 subject spiral notebooks, loose leaf paper, marble composition books, boxes of 24 crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, highlighters, dry erase markers, pencils, pens, pencil boxes and pencil sharpeners)
- ❖ Volunteer to help with set-up, clean-up, cooking and serving food, sorting supplies and filling backpacks, helping with the various games and craft activities.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to indicate how you would like to help and there are boxes for you to place your donations of school supplies in. Monetary donations can also be made by using the "Mission" envelopes in your box of offering envelopes or by indicating that your donation is for the Back to School Fair.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please speak with anyone on the committee – Dean Calamaras, Pat Gilmaier, Jason Laz, Sue Laz, Andy Miller, Bill Multunas or Pastor John.

Third Presbyterian Church
115 Winter Street
Troy, NY 12180

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

