

June 2018

“A Recipe for Christian Unity”

Having concluded the ‘theological’ half of “Ephesians” with a wonderful expression of praise in Ephesians 3:20-21, we now move into the more ‘application’ oriented half of the letter. As we do this, June’s newsletter will focus on the first six verses of chapter 4, where we read:

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I [Paul] urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit -- just as you were called to one hope when you were called -- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:1-6)

The May 1987 edition of *National Geographic* included a feature about the arctic wolf. Author L. David Mech described how a seven-member pack had targeted several musk-oxen calves who were guarded by eleven adults. As the wolves approached their prey, the musk-oxen bunched in an impenetrable circle, their deadly rear hooves facing out, and the calves remained safe in the center of that huddle during a long standoff with the enemy. But then a single ox broke rank, and the herd scattered into nervous little groups. A skirmish ensued, and the adults finally fled in panic, leaving the calves to the mercy of the predators. Not a single calf survived.

Paul was deeply concerned about the Church at Ephesus. His last words to the leaders of that Church, before his arrest in Jerusalem, reflected his fears as he warned them to be aware of savage wolves that would come in among them -- some even calling themselves Christians -- seeking to divide and destroy the flock of God. (Acts 20:29)

Later, in this letter to the Ephesians, Paul encourages the Church with words of comfort, reminding them that, as a new creation in Christ, they have a special calling from God. And Paul, himself now a ‘prisoner’ on account of the Gospel, understood what was at stake for those who took their new calling seriously. The potential consequences of heeding Paul’s exhortations could very well mean persecution, suffering, and even death for some. Yet failure to heed Paul’s words would most certainly mean disaster for the church.

Paul never lost sight of the honor and glory of his high calling as a Christian and he wanted to make sure that the Ephesian Christians would not lose sight of who they were and to what they had been called in Christ -- both the privileges and the challenges. And so the final three chapters of this letter are “walking instructions” -- aerobics for the heart and soul of the Church.

Paul knew that if the Church was to survive the attacks of the ‘wolves’ -- both those from within and those from outside of the Church -- it needed to get in shape. And the best way to get in shape is to know what we believe and then

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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



practice what we profess -- to own and exercise our faith. Therefore, Paul told the Church, **“walk in a manner that is worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”**

They had been -- we have been -- called to follow Jesus, to walk in His steps, which is essential if we are to be the Church -- children of a New Covenant in which our Father promises to bless, care for, and transform us into the glorious image of His Son, Jesus.

Being children of the King of Kings, we are royalty. And as royalty we have great freedoms and great responsibilities. In turn, Paul exhorts us to live in a way that glorifies our God and reflects the honor of our new relationship with God.

But why? Why is it so important how we live? Isn't it enough to say that we believe in Jesus? Isn't it enough that we just understand the right doctrines?

Paul would answer those last two questions with a resounding “No!”, because, although doctrine is important, being the Church of Jesus Christ requires more than right thinking (orthodoxy) it requires right living (orthopraxis). Paul knew what could happen when a bunch of diverse, divisive, sinful people are brought together as a family -- there will be problems, there will be fighting, there will be disunity.

And although our doctrine may inform us on how we're to live (and to that end it is absolutely fundamental that we know what we believe), yet, it is only when we practice what we believe that our beliefs have the impact that God desires.

Paul also knew how God wants us to live.

Our new relationship with God is to be one of unity: a oneness where brothers and sisters in Christ gather to worship, serve and love God and each other; a oneness where women and men, young and old, experience a binding together of hearts that comes as the Holy Spirit moves in our lives.

The Church is one body in Christ, and even as a physical body can be harmed or weakened when parts become infected, wounded or severed, so the body of Christ is hurt, hindered, made ineffective and even repulsive when there is disunity.

And you know this!

And most every church that has ever existed knows this!

We know the pain of divisiveness. We know the devastating effects upon a community of faith when we let the sins of self-centeredness, pride, and self-righteousness draw our eyes away from the mission of the church and onto our personal preferences. We know how quickly we can make our personal ideas of what a church should be and our agendas of what a church should do into our 'gods', with the result that we miss the high calling to which God calls us, and, we neglect the glorious ministry unto which God appoints us.

Paul knew that if the Church was to flourish, if we're to be and do what God intended -- what the Spirit of God initiated -- we must walk in unity, for in truth we are one in Christ, bound by the very Spirit of God. God has established the unity of the church. The challenge before us is whether or not we're going to live it out and manifest it to our world through our worship and service of God. The challenge before us is whether or not we're going to be the church as God desires, or succumb to the lure of making the church just one more institution among many dedicated to satisfying our self-centered desires.

And so we must ask, “What can bring a person, and even more a group of people, to put aside those things that may cause division, and join with others in a common cause and purpose?”

And the answer Paul gives is, “hope” – that assurance of a relationship with God based upon God's unconditional, eternal love. The answer is “hope” -- a treasure so wonderful that it compels us to leave all else behind for this one gem, this pearl of great price, this truth revealed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But hope is only as sure as the authority and ability of the One who promises it. And so Paul reminds us of the source of our hope, the one who in His being justifies this call to unity -- the one Father who is over all and through all and in all.

And so, first, we can live united in hope because our God is over all. God is transcendent – the holy and majestic One who is worthy of our worship and obedience. And God is sovereign so is able, despite the sin and suffering of our world, to give us hope! (Eph 3:20-21)

Next, we can live united in hope because our God is through all. God has created us and has given us gifts and talents, desires and wills, resources and means. However, God has not abandoned us to our own devices. God continues to work through His creation that God's will may be done. God's love for us will not allow God to remain aloof and distant, a passive viewer in the game of life. God is active through us and this is a reason to hope!

And third, we can live united in hope because our God is in us. God works in our hearts to draw us to Himself -- to watch over and care for us as a mother nurtures her children. God works in us to heal our hurts, calm our fears and bind our broken hearts. God is present in and with us, which means that we never live, even one moment, apart from who our God gives us hope!

Now, this one God is also our one and only Lord -- our only true master who bids us, to follow Him. Moreover, He is our Savior, the One in whom we can put our trust for He has shown Himself trustworthy.

Moreover, this one Lord – Jesus the Christ – is the One to whom we pledge allegiance when we affirm our faith through baptism. For, as there is only one Lord who is worthy of our trust, one Savior who died for us and rose again from the dead that we might have new life, so also there is only one baptism -- one expression of that new covenant which we enter through faith – a faith in the one true God that glorifies and honors that God.

This one God is also our Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who is our source and seal of hope -- our guarantee of eternal life with the Father. The Holy Spirit works within the Church, breathing life into the body of Christ, empowering and enabling us to serve with gladness, transforming our lives that we may not only be one, but that we might live as one.

And as the Spirit of God has created and breathed life into this one body, so we, as God's children, empowered by the Spirit of God, are called to maintain the health and wellbeing of the body of Christ. To do anything less is to sin against God!

This one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- has called us to Himself creating peace where there was once only hostility, and unity where there was once only separation. This is the basis of our hope, the source of our new life. And since this one God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- has not only made us one but also calls us to live as one, Paul tells us that we must therefore make every effort to walk in unity.

And so the question becomes, what can we do to nurture such unity?

Paul tells us that we can live in peace -- we can demonstrate unity -- we can share God's love -- if we exercise humility, gentleness, forbearance and patience in love.

First, Paul calls us to practice humility. Paul was a radical calling the believer to a radical change in lifestyle, for, you see, there was no value or honor in the practice of humility for the Greek. Yet Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, a Church saturated with Greek culture, telling them that the unity God demands from His people requires the practice of humility by His people.

Now humility is the opposite of pride and so to exercise humility is to denounce self-centeredness! Humility is having a proper understanding of the glory of God and the dignity of mankind, and the soberness of thought to see the difference. William Barclay, a 20th century theologian, states that Christian humility is based upon the sight of self, the vision of Christ, and the realization of God. Humility is knowing that as a child of God we are of value to God -- and so are our brothers and sisters in Christ -- since humility is not a poor but a proper understanding of oneself.

And so, a humble person looks upon those who don't know Jesus and weeps because she knows that the only distinction between her and that other person is the grace of God. A humble person is one

who is compelled, out of love and concern, to minister God's grace to those who don't know Jesus -- to the lost, lonely and needy. A humble person is one who will: soil his hands to minister to the dirty; step aside from her peers to speak with the lonely; put aside his own ambitions to care for the needy; reach out in love to embrace the unlovely; and, offer forgiveness to those who have sinned against us.

A humble person is one who does nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit but considers others better than themselves, looking out not only for their own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Phil 2:3-4)

And so for a Church to demonstrate unity its members must practice humility.

But we must not stop there, and so Paul continues with an exhortation to practice gentleness.

Now, the gentleness Paul writes of is not weakness but meekness -- controlled power -- a power that allows us to put aside selfish desires -- to put aside our quest for personal rights and personal glory - - so that we may be a servant to others. Gentleness is a strength that enables us to endure hardship for the sake of peace knowing that our security in Christ frees us to risk for Christ and for what is good and just and right. Gentleness is a firmness that enables us to stand for the truth without destroying the dignity of others, and a conviction that enables us to hold fast to our beliefs without attacking, belittling or mocking those who disagree -- which, sadly, is the predominant means of communication in our day!

Gentleness is as Jesus, who took little children into His arms, and, overturned money tables in the temple courts. Gentleness is as Jesus, who healed the blind beggar, and, condemned the blind guides. Gentleness is as Jesus, who hung upon the cross enduring the ridicule of the crowd, when, with one command, He could have called forth His angels to destroy His enemies.

Gentleness is the person who refrains from responding to an insult with an insult -- renouncing such harshness and violence and practicing instead compassion and forgiveness. Gentleness is the student who confronts her peers when their prejudice causes pain for another, knowing that it may cost her a place in the group. Gentleness is speaking encouragement and working for unity instead of promoting personal agendas that stir divisions.

Paul encourages us that as we work to manifest that unity which is ours in Christ -- in obedience to our God -- we must exercise humility and gentleness.

Continuing with his description of traits that build unity in the body, Paul writes that we're to bear with one another in love. We are to 'put up with' one another -- exercising towards others the very grace that God has shown toward us.

Again, Paul speaks to us as one who knew people and knew the threats to unity faced by the Church. Paul knew that sometimes it's not easy to get along, and so he emphasized the need for patience.

The word translated as patience communicates the idea of 'long-suffering' (which may describe how you feel in the prolonged company of certain individuals 😊!).

Paul calls us to such endurance, to such perseverance in love in all our relationships -- the enjoyable ones and the difficult ones.

Perhaps Paul emphasized such patience in love because he remembered his own impatience with John Mark, whom he refused to take with him on his second missionary tour because Mark quit half-way through the first one. Instead, John Mark was embraced and encouraged by Barnabas, Paul's own mentor. And because of Barnabas' patience with Mark, he became a leader of the early Church and the author of one of our Gospels.

Or perhaps Paul stressed this need to exercise 'long-suffering' with our brothers and sisters in Christ because he remembered Jesus' treatment of him, as Jesus watched and waited patiently even though Paul was having Jesus' followers imprisoned or even killed. And, in the proper time, Jesus called Paul to Himself on that Damascus road encounter, offering Paul forgiveness and hope.

As the body of Christ we're called to be patient with one another, just as Jesus is patient with us - - to bear with one another in love, to commit ourselves to serving one another with joy -- thus imitating

our Savior who did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. (Mk 10:45)

Paul calls us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling as Christians -- to live in a way that brings honor to the family name. This requires believing in the one and only God who created, empowers and indwells the one body of Christ. And, it requires a change of behavior, for there can be no unity as long as: pride suffocates humility; anger crushes gentleness; intolerance drives away forbearance; and, impatience smothers patience – as we live with unforgiveness in our hearts!

Now, our role is not to create unity, God did that. He made us one in Christ!

And our calling is not to work for peace at any price, since to promote peace at the cost of the integrity of the Gospel is to replace the worship of God with the worship of a philosophical ideal that can never be achieved apart from God.

But we are exhorted to work for: unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, and, charity in all things.

Our mission is to demonstrate such love and acceptance of one another that all the world might see that unity which is ours in Christ Jesus -- that supernatural presence and power of the Spirit, and in their seeing come to experience for themselves the love and acceptance of Almighty God.

And to be the Church as God intended, to know the hope and peace that God desires for us, we must pray for and work-out that unity which is ours in Christ, because where there is division – where there is gossip and greed and selfishness and self-righteousness and unforgiveness -- there is a wounded, dying, or even dead Church.

In this letter Paul has spoken of the new life believers have in Christ -- with all its' benefits and responsibilities. And, as Paul turned from theology to application he began by confronting the issue of unity. And perhaps Paul began with a call to unity because he knew that the biggest obstacle in moving from theory to application is not the inability to grasp the deep theology, but our resistance to allowing the Spirit of God to change us so that we may work together in love and unity.

And perhaps Paul began with a call to unity because he knew that instead of showing love to one another, we often choose to fight against each other, and in turn rob ourselves of the very thing that will bring us peace, while, at the same time we drive others away from the church of Jesus Christ.

Yet peace and hope can be ours, and ours to share, if we would exercise humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in love, and allowing the Spirit of God to create in us a new heart – a united heart. This is the walk to which we are called. This is the life that will bring honor to God. This is what will move the Church from being merely a gathering of selfish sinners, to being the communion of saints.

May Third Church be such a communion – to the praise of God's holy name!

Serving God with you,

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 June we will be collecting juice.



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

General Financial Update for April 2018

	Year to Date	April
Total Income	\$58,741.50	\$17,163.00
Total Expenses	\$58,930.24	\$15,107.82
Difference	\$ (188.74)	\$ 2,055.18

June Birthdays

6/1 Bob Somerville
 6/6 Marilyn Gibbs
 6/6 Wendy Jensen
 6/10 Christian Multunas
 6/11 Pat Gilmaier
 6/11 Jacob Russell
 6/16 Angelina Solomon
 6/20 Nora Miller
 6/25 Howard Solomon
 6/27 Kiko Valerio



June Anniversaries

6/18 Joshua & Colleen Reynolds
 6/19 Bob & Maureen Somerville
 6/21 John & Jennifer McAuley

Serving This Month

June 3rd

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy and Ella Miller
 Greeters: Jen McAuley and Alice Bentley
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller
 Nursery: Jaime Miller and Megan Laz
 Communion: Natalia Multunas
 Fellowship Hosts: McAuley Family

June 10th

Worship Assistants: Bill Multunas and Kelly Valerio
 Greeters: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
 Nursery: Jen McAuley and Irene Ofori
 Communion: Natalia Multunas, Jerry Whitman, Rob Jensen, Sue Laz
 Fellowship Hosts:

June 17th

Worship Assistants: Kelly Valerio and Natalia Multunas
 Greeters: Dean and Doris Calamaras
 Head Greeter: Peter Laz
 Nursery: Diane Lewinski and Ella Miller
 Communion: Vera Whitman, Alice Bentley, Andy Miller, Bill Multunas
 Fellowship Hosts: Holly Steciuk

June 24th

Worship Assistants: Eric and Jesse Ofori
 Greeters: Joe Pasinella
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller
 Nursery: Alice Bentley and Jaime Miller
 Communion: Dean Calamaras, Deena Dominy, Doris Calamaras, Eric Ofori
 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, 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 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 Sceccitano (Boston College)
Natalie Sceccitano (Houghton)
Angelina Solomon (SUNY Albany)

Serving at the Capital City Rescue Mission June 16th

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.



Bible Quiz for May 2018

As you may have noticed, I have put our sermon series on 1 Timothy on hold in order to spend some time studying God's interaction with His servant Abraham, and how God revealed His sovereign working in our world through Abraham and Sarai and His covenant with them -- a covenant fulfilled in part with that couple, but fulfilled in whole through Jesus the Christ. In the light of this, the next few quizzes will be from Genesis chapters 12 through 25. In order to narrow the subject a little for this quiz, I will be asking questions from chapters 17 through 19.

1. Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham?
2. What did God prescribe that Abraham have done to himself as a sign of God's covenant with Abraham?
3. True or False: Abraham was commanded that that covenant sign/act (see Q #1) was to be performed on every male descendant of Abraham throughout the generations to come.
4. True or False: God changed Abraham's wife's name from Sarah to Sarai.
5. How old was Abraham's wife when she finally became pregnant?
6. What did Abraham's wife do when she overheard the angel of the LORD say that she would have a son?
7. What did the LORD intend to do to Sodom and Gomorrah? Why?
8. True or False: When Abraham heard of God's intent for Sodom and Gomorrah he said, "It is about time!"
9. True or False: Through Abraham's "bartering" with the angel of the LORD, it was determined that there were at least 10 righteous men in Sodom?
10. When the two angels who were with Abraham left him and entered Sodom, who met them in the town square? What did he invite them to do?

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) – “I’m not quite sure what to expect from this next month. Ramadan will start on the 15th and I know that will change the pace of life here. I hope it will be a good chance to meet and talk with local friend but it might also be challenging as the day becomes night and night day.

As last summer, I will need to leave during the summer months but I will continue to work through June and July. I’ll have the opportunity to spend two weeks in Tanzania doing outreach before heading to the UK to spend a majority of my summer working there. I know a number of people working there and will have the chance to work in a community center focused on the large and growing immigrant and refugee population coming from all across the Middle East.”

From Joshua Multunas (at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) – “Here at the seminary, the Spring semester is rapidly coming to a close. Finals are next week, which is hard to believe, and then a week later I fly to Dubai!

Please pray for me and the rest of the Dubai team as we prepare, and for our time in Dubai. Please pray that we would minister well to the church there, as well as for opportunities to engage in conversations with Muslims. We’ll be there during Ramadan, and there is great openness to discussing religion during that time.”

From Andy Lightcap (Capital District Youth For Christ) – “When we first met Maddie she was very lonely and very depressed. Her home life was a wreck and she was in a very dark place. Her behavior and attitude began to be a visual representation of the pain she was going through.

As she began coming to our City Life Program, she began to experience the love of Jesus. Staff and volunteers began to speak life into her life and began to share the hope of the Gospel. She came to Snow Blast with us and I wasn’t sure how she would respond. After hearing the testimony of one of our staff she had a lot of questions. For the next few hours she talked with one of our staff about life, her sin and her need for a Savior. At the end of that conversation Maddie surrendered her life to Jesus.

Maddie is the reason we do what we do. Our desire is to reach into the darkness and show kids the light of the Gospel. Thank you for your help in reaching students like Maddie!”

From Perry Jones (Capital City Rescue Mission) – “Your gift not only provides physical nourishment, you also help fill the emptiness of our city’s homeless and hungry neighbors by offering spiritual hope. Your support of Capital City Rescue Mission is a true blessing to our entire community. Thank you for making a difference one man, one woman and one child at a time.”

From Peter Halder (YFC Bangladesh) – “Always we are very grateful for your prayer, which is providing inspiration and strength in the midst of disturbance and persecution. Your generous investment in the work of BYFC is making a great impact in the lives of many.”

Spring/Summer Luncheon June 16th

Lunch will be served at 12 noon, entertainment will follow about 12:30. The luncheon is sponsored by the Senior God Squad. There is no cost; the Ed Paul Funds will cover the food.

Please RSVP to Vera and Jerry Whitman at 518-283-4147.

Individual serving food items and any monies collected will be given to the Ronald McDonald House, as usual.

Prayer Ministry

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

There are two opportunities to gather together with others to pray - **every Sunday morning from 8:30 – 9:00 and the 3rd Sunday of the month from 12:30 – 1:00**. The focus of these times is to pray for the morning's activities, for our community and those who don't know the Lord, and any special needs within the congregation. Times of spoken prayer and time for silent prayer are included.

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

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

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

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

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



Our next Sunday school class will be held **June 17th** following the worship service.

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.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE June 2nd 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 2nd. 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.

SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-MAY 14, 2018

ACTION ITEMS

1. A motion was made and carried unanimously to use Ed Paul Estate Youth Funds to pay for the Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration.
2. A motion was made, no second needed, and carried unanimously to remove the following from the Membership Roll: Julie Ann Tootell, Michael Martin, Michele Reynolds, Cassondra De Phelan, Rachel Farnum, Connie Russell, and Richard Russell.
 - Those removed from our membership roll have either not been an active participant in the worship and service of Third Church for over three years or have indicated a desire to move on from the ministry of TPC. The latter group has been contacted and have agreed with the decision to be removed.
 - Any former members are always invited and encouraged to rejoin with TPC in their worship and service of the Lord, or, to find another faith family where they may grow in their faith in Jesus.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Miscellaneous Information:
 - Average attendance for April 2018 was 52.
 - Membership Roll now at 56.
 - Reminder of activities before the next Business Meeting:
 - 06/02 – Community Garage Sale at church from 9 AM-3 PM.
 - 06/05 – Albany Presbytery Meeting at Rensselaerville Church from 6:30-9 PM.
 - 06/10 – Worship Service and Communion at The Eddy at 3:30 PM.

INWARD MINISTRY

CHRISTIAN NURTURE

MEN'S MINISTRY- Currently studying the Gospel of Mark, meeting on the first Sunday of each month at church at 6:30 PM.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY-The Women's group is currently doing a Max Lucado study titled, "Anxious For Nothing", meeting Thursday evenings at Pat Gilmaier's home at 7 PM.

YOUTH MINISTRY - Next Sunday School for kids will meet on June 17th at 12:30 PM. There will be no Vacation Bible School this year.

SENIOR'S MINISTRY - Plans are all set for the luncheon sponsored by the Senior God Squad on June 16th at church at 12 Noon.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Adult Sunday School class is studying the life of the Apostle Paul, meeting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.
- The Wednesday evening study group is ongoing and looks at the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday. They meet on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM.
- We will be having a dinner and game night on June 8th from 6-8 PM. There will be a meal, a brief devotional activity, a time for games or other activities, and dessert.

OUTWARD MINISTRY (Engage, Evangelize, Extend)

OUTREACH & MISSION

- Spending for May: Capital City Rescue Mission-\$500, Reach Across (Dan McAuley)-\$300, Bangladesh Youth For Christ-\$500, Inter Varsity-\$500
- Natalia Multunas did a Minute For Ministry Sunday on how she shares her faith at work. We are looking to have others speak how they share their faith. 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. Lois Pasinella will be sharing on June 3rd.
- For May, our collection for Hope 7 Food Pantry is focused on peanut butter and jelly. For June we will focus on juice.
- We will be serving the evening meal at Capital City Rescue Mission on June 16th, meeting at church at 5 PM.
- Sherri Caparello (Director of Hope 7's Food Pantry) will be with us in worship on May 27th to present a Minute For Ministry.
- Kevin Post (Capital District Youth For Christ) will be with us on June 10th to present a Minute For Ministry on Youth For Christ's ministry to young people.
- 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.

STEWARDSHIP (Upward, Inward, Outward)

GENERAL FUND & FINANCE

- We had a positive cash flow during April of \$2,055.18 which gives us a year-to-date deficit of only \$188.74.
- Manse Investment Account balance as of April 30th was \$117,833.50.

PROPERTY

- Awaiting drainage work on side wall, and the City of Troy's cleaning of the drainage swamp area in the rear of the property.
- Lawnmower was serviced and is running well. Many thanks to Rob Jensen and his work on the mower.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Informal/Study – May 28, 2018.
- Business – June 11, 2018.

Dinner and Game Night
June 8th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM



Everyone is invited to join us on Friday, June 8th 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

