

The Third PRESS



August 2018

“Building a Healthy Church Through Leaders Who Lead and Followers Who Follow”

We live in a health conscious society – which is induced in part by the rising cost of diet related illnesses like diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and the list goes on.

As our sensitivities to our dangerous dietary habits are heightened, we spend money on health clubs and fitness equipment – equipment which, if actually used often just serves to free our conscience so that we can indulge further in our favorite treats. And so the vicious cycle continues!

But, despite our destructive habits, we know that our physical health is important if we want to do the things with our bodies that our minds still think we can do.

And so, even as we’re all reminded, and sometimes through great pain, of the need to strengthen our body and stay in good physical condition, so we’re reminded in the passage we’ll reflect upon in this newsletter of the importance of being a strong, healthy Body of Christ.

In that passage Paul speaks to us about “Body Building” – about the spiritual conditioning in which all believers in Jesus must participate if we’re to stay in shape spiritually -- if we’re to be ever increasing in our maturity in Christ.

That passage, from Ephesians 4:11-13, reads as follows:

It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all 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.

Earlier, in verse 7 Paul indicated that God has gifted the church through Jesus with all that it needs to be faithful and fruitful, for there we read: **“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it”**.

In that verse Paul reminds us that our ‘gifting’ is not by our special efforts or training, nor because of our worthiness, nor according to our ingenuity, but by the grace of God.

Now the grace of which Paul is speaking in verse 7 is not God’s grace that leads to salvation, although that is certainly a prerequisite to the grace spoken of here. Rather, the grace of which Paul is speaking about refers to God’s ongoing provision for His people – God’s providential care – those “gifts” which are for the purpose of bringing health to and enabling ministry through the body of Christ.

And, as we know from passages such as “Romans 12” and “1 Corinthians 12”, God gives gifts to individuals, but He also gives gifts to the church.

In particular, as we see in Ephesians 4:11, the fundamental gift that God gives to the church is leaders, for, the plan of God for the church begins with the

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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



establishment and development of disciplined, godly leadership.

Howard Hendricks, one time seminary professor and noted Christian author commented that the greatest need in the church today is for leaders of character, vision, and passion for the Lord. And John Maxwell, founder of “Enjoy Ministries”, a ministry dedicated to encouraging leadership in the church, has noted that the maturity and strength of a church rises or falls to the level of its leadership.

Many mainline denominations are fearful of the latest research which indicates that these denominations, denominations such as the Presbyterian Church (USA), will soon be extinct.

And we wonder at the cause of the problem as we run to “Church Growth Gurus” for answers and -- for slick methods and fancy programs. However, most often the problems facing a church go far beyond its programs, structures, or facilities. In fact, many “Church Growth” experts suggest that there are two main areas of challenge facing the church today. The first deals with the integrity of its leadership, and the second deals with the dedication of its “followership”.

At the same time they suggest that the solution is not fancy programs or expensive consultants but rather a return to Christ-like leadership and Christ-like followership.

And I believe that if we’re willing to listen we’ll find that Ephesians 4:11-13 gives us a mini-course on such leadership and followership.

Looking to verse 11 we read that: **“It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be pastors and teachers.”**

And so we see that Paul addressed the issue of leadership in general by looking at a few of the leadership positions prominent in the early church.

First, Paul wrote of apostles.

Now, in its narrow sense, an apostle was one who was “sent” by Jesus to carry out a particular ministry, for the word apostle means “sent one”. And in the early church it was generally understood that an apostle was one who witnessed Jesus’ resurrection and who was sent by Him to build the church. And so, although some today use the word “apostle” to refer to anyone who is appointed by the church for a ministry of proclamation, it’s clear from our context that Paul was talking about those especially called by God, for a time, at the inception of the church.

Next, Paul wrote of prophets -- those who, along with the apostles, help establish the foundation of the church. Prophets, too, were given to the church by God, sometimes with special messages and accompanying signs and wonders, and sometimes with words of encouragement, but always as the Spirit of God directed. And the heart of their ministry was to speak the Word of God – to reveal to people what God wanted His people to know – at a particular time and in response to a particular situation.

And so, as Paul indicated earlier in this letter, **“[the church], God’s household, [is] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the chief cornerstone.”** (Eph 2:20)

Now the office of apostle and prophet in the strict sense of the terms ended with the close of the first century church, but their role was and is carried on by the evangelist, the pastor/teacher, the elders of a church body and others in leadership positions.

And, whereas the evangelist can be understood as the one who serves as the missionary of the church spreading the gospel and planting churches, being used by God for the conversion of the lost, the pastor/teacher is the one who nurtures the church through the giving of love and compassion for those in need, and through the imparting of knowledge and wisdom as acquired through God’s Word and Spirit, so that those under their care may walk faithfully with Jesus.

In other words, whereas the evangelist is as the obstetrician – aiding in the birthing of new believers, the pastor/teacher is as the pediatrician – helping to raise up spiritually sound followers of Jesus. And both work together, along with other leaders in the church, so that the body of Christ may grow in number and in depth.

Central to all roles mentioned in verse 11 is the communication of the Word of God. Moreover, this communication is for the purpose that the leadership of the church might equip the saints (vs. 12)

with the tools necessary so that the saints, that is, all believers, may do the ministry of the church – may work to bring to life Jesus’ Great Commandment and Great Commission – which, as you know, form the very Mission Statement of Third Church.

In other words, the role of the leaders of a church, is not to take on the responsibility for doing all the work of the church, but rather to encourage, train, and motivate the saints to minister alongside the leaders – that together we might know God more fully and serve Him more rightly.

A godly leader must be a servant to the body of Christ as well as to the community. After all, to be like Christ in leadership is to seek not to be served, but to serve, and to give one’s life for the benefit of the whole body (Mk 10:45). But, such servant-leadership does not mean doing everything, since, if a leader were to do all or most of the work of the church, he or she may find themselves working against God.

Moreover, for a leader to horde the ministry of the church reflects not only a poor understanding of what it means to equip others for ministry, but it reveals an insecurity and mistrust on the part of the leader – both toward those who follow, and toward God. And in the end that leader will become a hindrance in the maturing of disciples for Jesus the same way a parent suffocates the growth of his or her child by denying that child responsibility and the pleasure that comes with personal achievement, and failure.

So what must a leader focus on in order to bring about Christ-like maturity in the church?
What must her or his priorities be?

I believe Peter gives us some direction through his own wrestling with issues of leadership in the early church. As you may recall, Peter and the other apostles started out by doing or directing everything in the church. They struggled with the need to be in control – after all they walked with Jesus! But, as “Acts” chapter 6 tells us, they soon realized that such a system would not work.

As the church grew it took on the responsibility, and rightly so, of caring for the widows, both Jew and Greek. However, the apostles were overwhelmed and therefore did an inadequate job both in proclaiming God’s word and in serving the widows. And so, trusting the care of the widows to other gifted ministers, the apostles went back to their primary calling as leaders of the church, namely, prayer and the ministry of the Word – interceding on behalf of the people and studying so as to rightly proclaim God’s will and lead God’s people (2 Tim 2:15).

Now, clearly, every Christian is to pray, and every Christian should be reading God’s Word regularly. But for a leader of the church, such disciplines are not just part of one’s walk with Jesus, they must be at the very heart of one’s ministry for Jesus.

God has given the church leaders -- pastors, teachers, and elders -- whose primary calling is the ministry of prayer, study, teaching and preaching, thereby nurturing the souls of those whom God has given into their care, while seeking to guide the church in accordance with God’s will for that church.

But then, if the primary responsibility of the leaders of the church are prayer and the study and teaching of the Scriptures, we must ask: Is this what the leaders of the church of Jesus Christ are doing today? And more specifically, are the leaders of our church encouraged to hold prayer and the studying and teaching of the Scriptures as their highest priority?

Certainly, the services of a pastor, elder or church leader should not be limited to prayer and the study of the Bible. But, if these are not a priority -- if he or she lets other ministries absorb all of their time leaving little room for prayer and the study of God’s Word -- then no matter how honorable or urgent these other ministries may be, these leaders will be failing God’s people whom they have been called to lead. And the result may be a busy church with attractive facilities and a variety of programs, but it will not be a significant church with life changing ministries and Spirit directed members. The result may be a pleasant congregation whose own immediate needs are met, but it will not be a passionate church that knows the need for repentance, that experiences the joy of salvation, and, that appreciates the privilege of service. The result may be an intriguing congregation with its many diverse doctrines, but it will not be an informed church that knows the truth and lives in the freedom which that truth brings.

Therefore, if you are a leader in this church, or any church, consider well your own calling to leadership, and how you will live out that calling. And know that if you're called to a leadership position within God's church, whether that be as pastor or elder or teacher or other avenue of leadership, you shall be accountable to God for the spiritual health of those whom God has put under your care. After all, godly leaders are given to the body of Christ so that followers of Jesus may be strengthened: to resist temptation; to engage in spiritual battles; to persevere through all kinds of hardships; and, in all of that, to become mature in Christ.

And so, a godly leader who relies upon the grace of God, who focuses upon prayer and the study of God's Word, and who serves as God calls, will eliminate part of the problem that plagues the church today. But only part of it! For often the failure of a leader is the result of the sin of his or her followers -- sin that evidences itself when followers refuse to take responsibility for the care of the greater body of Christ, and yet freely challenge the authority of the leadership that God has placed over that body.

There's a dangerous and deadly passivity that has grown up in the church in this country -- a passivity too often nurtured by leaders unwilling to give up control, and demanded by followers unwilling to take responsibility -- a passivity fueled by a people who have grown up and are growing up in a society that is big on the self and small on sacrifice.

Too many people approach Christianity the way a spectator approaches a sporting event. He knows all the rules. He knows the statistics of all the key players and the success potential of all the plays. He attends the games faithfully and may even work up a sweat during the game -- raising his hands, waving his arms, shouting praises (and sometimes other things!). But he never plays the game. He never kicks the ball, or swings the bat, or shoots the basket. Sure, he can give critiques of each play, and sometimes even valid critiques, but he remains distant, safe in his seat, away from the real action, oblivious to the real struggles -- the hurt, the heartache, the cost. In the end the worship experience of such Christians is evaluated by its entertainment value, and their service to God becomes a matter of convenience.

We've heard it before but I will say it again -- Christianity is not a spectator sport. There are no stands from which we can sit back and watch, call the plays and critique the coaches or players. If we call ourselves Christians then we need to suit up each day and play the game. Sometimes it's fun. Sometimes it hurts. But to live for, serve, and worship Jesus is never meant to be merely entertainment, and it's most certainly not something we do only when convenient!

Moreover, godly followers follow the leaders God has given to them out of obedience to God and out of respect for God's appointed leaders (1 Thes. 5:12). And godly leaders can gain the respect of those they are to serve when those leaders are given the time and resources necessary for them to lead as God directs -- which means they must be given the time to pray and study, to listen for God's voice and respond to God's guidance.

God gives the church leaders and then calls the entire body to follow their lead.

Elton Trueblood has observed that the church is in the midst of a Second Reformation. As he states, the First Reformation put the "Word of God" back into the hands of the people. The Second Reformation is putting the "Ministry of the Church" back into the hands of the people. Unfortunately many people within the church resisted the first reformation because that meant that they would have to think about what they claimed to believe. Likewise, many people are resistant of the second reformation because that means that they will actually have to live what they claim to believe.

Leaders who lead and followers who follow -- this is the vital element necessary for the building up of the body of Christ -- this is what the church, what Third Church must encourage, if we're to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

And, thank God Third Church has both: Leaders who accept the responsibility to equip the saints; and, Followers who are willing to do the ministry of the church.

I am so thankful for the heart of our Session and for their desire to lead this congregation as the Lord wills. They truly exhibit a humility which strives for unity. And because of their leadership, and because of the strong leadership that went before them, we have many involved in ministries within our church – many who understand what our Order of Worship states – that every believer is a minister!

This is a wonderful church filled with leaders who lead and followers who follow and with many having the wisdom and grace to know when to do which. I thank God for you for I see you doing so many of the things that Paul speaks of in our passage today – and that bodes well for the future of this congregation.

Yet, as we look to be ever more faithful in our ministry to our God, it's good for the leaders of Third Church to ask ourselves: Are we being the leaders God calls us to be, praying for one another and for this church, and studying God's Word while waiting upon the Lord for guidance? Are we united in faith, hope, and love, seeking the best for each other and this congregation? Are we doing all and only that for which God has gifted us, as we fulfill our call to leadership?

And the rest of us should ask ourselves: Are we respecting, praying for, and following the leadership that God has given to this church? Are we doing the work of ministry as God has gifted and called us so that our leaders can be free to lead? Are we staying fit through our involvement in the game? After all, as you know, there's no retirement from the service of our Lord!

And together, we, leaders and followers alike, should ask ourselves: How have I matured in my faith of late, and, am I on the course to even greater maturity in the years ahead as I follow the vision and mission that God has given to us at Third Church?

For, God's goal for the church is that -- through leadership empowered by the Holy Spirit and followership enabled by that same Spirit -- we would grow in the unity of the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, becoming mature members of God's Church. It's to this end that the Spirit of God pours out His grace upon the church. And, it's through this end that we as a church may attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

May we be moving ever closer toward such fullness – to the praise and honor of our God!

God's grace and peace be with you,

Pastor John

Serving at the Capital City Rescue Mission August 18th

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.



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 August we will be collecting toilet paper.



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

General Financial Update for June

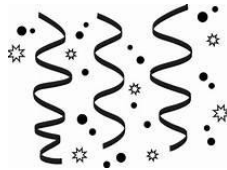
	Year to Date	June
Total Income	\$83,946.50	\$12,246.00
Total Expenses	\$86,005.92	\$13,835.49
Difference	\$(2,059.42)	(1,589.49)

August Birthdays

8/2 Beth Casey
 8/8 Sal Sceccitano
 8/13 Brian Giddings
 8/14 Joe Pasinella
 8/16 Maureen Somerville
 8/23 Terry Marra

August Anniversaries

8/7 Megan & Jason Laz
 8/12 Rob & Wendy Jensen
 8/16 Julie & Graham Tootell
 8/25 Peggy & Bill Siracusa



Serving This Month

August 5th

Worship Assistants: Kelly Valerio, Natalia Multunas
 Greeters: Valerie Bidwell, Vaughn Skarzynski
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller
 Nursery: Irene Ofori and Diane Lewinski
 Communion: Jen McAuley
 Fellowship Hosts: Multunas Family

August 12th

Worship Assistants: Sue Laz, Dean Calamaras
 Greeters: Joe Pasinella
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
 Communion: Natalia Multunas, Alice Bentley, Rob Jensen, Sue Laz
 Fellowship Hosts: Amoah Family

August 19th

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy, Ella Miller
 Greeters: Dean and Doris Calamaras
 Head Greeter: Peter Laz
 Nursery: Sue and Megan Laz
 Communion: Alice Bentley, Vera Whitman, Andy Miller, Sue Laz
 Fellowship Hosts: Holly Steciuk

August 26th

Worship Assistants: Natalia Multunas, Eric Ofori
 Greeters: Bill Multunas
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller
 Nursery: Deena Dominy and Alice Bentley
 Communion: Jason Laz, Dean Calamaras, Doris Calamaras, Eric Ofori
 Fellowship Hosts: Church Picnic

Church Picnic-August 26th

Following worship on August 26th we will have a church picnic. The Inward Ministry Committee will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, and beverages. If you would like, you may bring something to share such as, chips, a salad, or a dessert. You are also encouraged to bring lawn chairs and any outdoor games or activities. This year we will have a tent out back to provide some shade.





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, Kelly Valerio

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 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.
Pray for wisdom as he plans for next year.

Our college students:

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



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

Our next Sunday school class will be held
August 19th following the worship service.

Bible Quiz for August 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 23 through 25.

1. How old was Sarah when she died? How old were Abraham and Isaac when Sarah died?
2. True or False: When Abraham was offered a plot of land free in which to bury Sarah he accepted that offered?
3. Where did Abraham send his servant to seek after a wife for Isaac?
4. True or False: Abraham told his servant that if the only way to get a non-Canaanite wife for Isaac was to bring Isaac back to Abraham's people then his servant should do that.
5. Who did Isaac end up marrying?
6. How was Isaac's wife related to Abraham?
7. Who did Abraham marry after Sarah's death?
8. How many sons were born to the woman Abraham married after the death of Sarah?
9. How old was Abraham when he died?
10. How long did Abraham live after he first left Haran to journey to the land of Canaan?

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 Niki Campbell (InterVarsity at RPI and Sage) – “Thank you so much for your continued support to the ministry at RPI and Russell Sage College. This has been a full school year, seeing Jesus become real to several of our friends. We have also seen the Spirit work in new corners of campus as we reach out to fraternities and international students in new ways. We are excited to see what Jesus will do in the coming school year. Your partnership helps sustain this ministry and I am grateful for it!”

From Andy Lightcap (Capital District Youth For Christ) – “This week I was able to work with four of our staff on our high ropes course with a group of 14 middle school students. I was so blessed as I watched as Kevin put his arm around a boy who was paralyzed with fear halfway up the course. Soon after that I watched Steve shouting encouragement across the course as he spurred the kids on to overcome their fears. Alexis gently urged apprehensive kids to take that next step while Tim got eye level with a young boy who just needed to be told he could do it.

To the outside eye it was just four adults and some kids on a ropes course, but at closer glance I saw the love of Jesus being demonstrated in small but tangible ways. We take advantage on many occasions to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through authentic Christ sharing relationships. It is through experiences like this day on the ropes course that those relationships are built.

My hope is that you know that through your prayer and support you too are part of this great team. Thank you so much for what you do to help us reach lost kids with the hope of Jesus.”

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. Thank you good friends at Third Pres. you bring Jesus’ love to many.”

From Peter Halder (Bangladesh YFC) – “We are so excited and grateful for your kind partnership with us. You and I together are in His business to bring change in the life of teens and youths with His life-changing message. We thank you so much for your generous investment in the Kingdom of the Father through supporting the work of Bangladesh YFC. Your support makes a difference in the lives of thousands.”

International Student Picnic-September 8th from 1-4 pm-at Brunswick Church

Did you know that every year approximately 1200 international students from over 80 different countries live right around the corner from us at RPI?

You are invited to attend to find out more about the Horizon's ministry with international students and how you could be involved. It is also a great opportunity to just spend time with and interact with the students to learn about them and to welcome them to the U.S. For many of the students this is their first time away from home and friendly faces are a great first step in making them feel welcome here.

Brunswick Church is also looking for help in hosting this event. Below is a list of the areas in which you might wish to serve

The day of the event:

- Set-up of tables and chairs
- Break-down of tables and chairs
- Greeters
- Food prep/Buffer set-up
- Grillers/Barbecue Experts
- Buffet/Kitchen/Dining area clean-up

Other ways to serve:

- Bring a dish to share (preferable to feed 12 or more, in a disposable container if you aren't attending the event)
- Donate gift cards for Hannaford, Price Chopper, or Wal-Mart for the purchase of food and paper products.
- Provide burgers, hot dogs, and rolls for the picnic
- Provide paper products for the picnic
- Make a financial donation toward the rental of tables and chairs

Please call the church office at 279-3792 for more information.

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 PM

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

November 18th, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

“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 find answers that will transform your heart and mind!

From Music and AV Ministries...

OPEN WIDE, SAY "AH!"...

If it's true that our "thoughts turn to love" in the Spring, than it's surely just as true that, come August, the thoughts of church staff everywhere turn to "who is God calling into ministry in our particular area" in the coming season. It's true--you can set your clocks by it!

Here at Third Church, I always try to keep a watchful eye out for those who would be a good fit for singing in our choir, playing and/or singing with our Acoustic Worship Team or working the controls of our audio and video system up in the balcony. The qualifications are stringent:

CHOIR --

- Available from 7-8pm on Wednesdays from September through mid-June
- Can carry a tune in a bucket

ACOUSTIC TEAM --

- Available at 9:30am on Sundays when scheduled
- (singers) Can carry a tune in a bucket
- (players) Can play electric solo from "*Hotel California*" (just kidding but you can tell how much skill you need by watching us play every week!)

AUDIO/VIDEO --

- (Audio) Good ears for sound levels and balance (pierced not required)
- (Video) Ability to press a computer spacebar (Seriously, that's all you need to do, BUT you must pay attention to know WHEN to press it!)

The choir, in particular, with its Wednesday rehearsals makes for a nice, informal *small group* experience for its members. We share blessings, concerns and prayer with and for one another and I try to share *pearls of musical wisdom* with the group (this is where they roll their eyes!) in addition to the actual rehearsal work we do on our weekly musical offerings. After many decades of faithful service, *Hazel Landry* is unable physically to continue with us (Thank you, Hazel!) and we have a few folks out on sabbatical. So, there's not only room *at the cross* for you but also room *in the choir loft!*

So, we have openings and needs in all three of these musical worship areas. The field is *wide open*. Now is the time for you to think, pray and discern whether you should say, *Ah! I believe God is calling me to serve him and his church in this way*. Give me a shout. Inquiring minds *want* to know...

With Joy in the Journey,
Sal Sceccitano

P.S. As of this writing, I have two Sundays under my belt following my thumb surgery and have gone from playing with just left hand and feet to playing with 9 of my 10 fingers--90%! My recovery seems to be progressing well and I should be out of all casts, splints and other cumbersome devices by the end of September. Thank you for your prayers and concern!

SESSION MEETING-THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-JULY 9, 2018

CLERK'S REPORT - Miscellaneous Information-Semi-Annual letter to M & T Bank regarding the use of the funds from the Ed Paul Estate has been sent.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

- Choir has ended for the summer. The Committee thanks the choir for their service throughout the year and wishes them an enjoyable summer off. Choir will return in September.
- End of year Music & AV picnic was held at the Sal's home on June 27th.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE-Visitation, phone calls, and cards are an ongoing ministry.

SENIOR'S MINISTRY

- Spring/Summer luncheon was held on June 16th, with 15 attendees.
- Entertainment was Eribeth, a trio from the Albany Symphony Orchestra.
- Three boxes of individual food servings were collected and delivered to the Albany Ronald McDonald House along with a check for \$200 collected from the seniors.

MISCELLANEOUS - The next Dinner and Game Night will be held on Saturday 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 tent from the Back-to-School Fair and have a church picnic on 8/26.

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

- Spending for July 2018: Capital City Rescue Mission-\$500.00, Reach Across (Dan McAuley)-\$300.00, Bangladesh Youth For Christ-\$500.00, InterVarsity at RPI and Russell Sage College-\$500.00, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-\$541.50, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (Joshua Multunas)-\$1,126.00
- We will be presenting a series of Minutes For Ministry on sharing our faith. Eric Ofori is scheduled for August and Deena Dominy for 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.
- For July our collection for the Hope 7 Food Pantry is focused on peanut butter and jelly. For August we will focus on toilet paper.
- We will be serving the evening meal at CCRM on August 18th.
- The Back-to-School Fair will be held on August 25th from 11 AM to 1 PM. Planning for that is underway.
- We are looking to hold a series of events that will address questions of faith.
 - **September 15th, 6-7:30 PM:** Is the Bible reliable? What does the Bible teach us about God and about ourselves?
 - **November 18th 6-7:30 PM:** Who is Jesus and why does He matter?
 - There will be an introduction, the presentation, time for questions, and refreshments. Childcare will be offered.
- We will be doing another order for t-shirts and we will be offering tote bags and long sleeve t-shirts in addition to t-shirts and sweatshirts.

STEWARDSHIP (Upward, Inward, Outward)

GENERAL FUND & FINANCE

- June Financial Report was reviewed and received-We had a negative cash flow during June of \$1,589.49 giving us a year- to-date deficit of \$2,059.42.
- Second Quarter offering statements were distributed on July 8th.

PROPERTY-Rob Jensen fixed an electrical issue with the sign.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Business: August 13th at church at 7 PM. Please read Holiness by J. C. Ryle, chapter 7, "Assurance", pages 152-187
- Informal/Study: August 27th at church at 7 PM. Please read ***From Embers To A Flame*** by Harry L. Reeder, III, chapters 11 and 12, "Revitalization Strategy 9: Small-Group Discipleship, *The Biblical Delivery System for Effective Discipleship*" and "Revitalization Strategy 10:A Great Commitment To The Great Commission, *The W.E.L.L. Church*", pages 177-200.

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



THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EXALTING GOD / PROCLAIMING CHRIST / MAKING DISCIPLES