

The Third PRESS



November 2018

“Behaviors of a Health Family of God”

As we continue in our newsletter series through Paul’s letter to the Ephesians we turn to chapter four and verses 25 through 32.

Let’s begin our study by reading from that passage, where Paul wrote:

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Family is important. Our biological family is, or at least should be, our first source of identity and self-awareness. It’s in the family where we first learn what it means to love and trust, to give and serve, to put the needs of another above our own wants. Even those who seem to reject the role of family look to the family as their first source of comfort, help, and direction in times of need. Studies show that despite their apparent rebellion, the teenager depends upon their family as their primary source of guidance and encouragement as he or she faces those difficult years of change and challenge. And within each family there are behaviors that when followed enable communication, enhance joy, and ensure the safety and health of the family. And the healthy functioning of a family is vital to the health of every member.

The same is true for the family of God -- we who are brothers and sisters in Christ through a profession of faith in Jesus and a commitment to walk with God. We have one Father -- One who is not a distant authority to be avoided, but One who is “Abba”, ‘Daddy’, who embraces us and is to be embraced by us.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we become a new creation; we enter into a new relationship; we become members of a new family -- whose bond is thicker than the blood of our ancestors, for the blood that binds us is the blood of God’s only begotten Son.

And being a family of God, we’re expected to behave in ways beneficial to the health of the family -- in ways that please our Father.

Now, in the passage for this newsletter, after calling the church to righteous and holy living, Paul identified some specific dos and don’ts in living as God’s children. And, he identified proper behavioral expectations by contrasting the old way of life apart from Christ with our new

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 [ThirdChurchTroy](https://www.facebook.com/ThirdChurchTroy)

—
A community of Christ
-followers where,

The Head of the Church
is...

The Lord Jesus Christ

The Ministers of the
Church are...
Every Believer

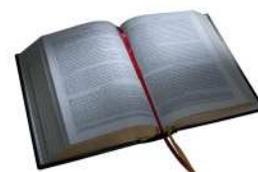
The Passion of the
Church is...
to be Spirit empowered
ministers of
reconciliation to God,
inviting all people to
faith in Christ Jesus
our Lord and
to holiness of life.

—
Our Mission:

To Love our God and
Neighbor

To Proclaim the Gospel
through Word and Deed

To Make Disciples of
Jesus the Christ



Now, in the passage for this newsletter, after calling the church to righteous and holy living, Paul identified some specific dos and don'ts in living as God's children. And, he identified proper behavioral expectations by contrasting the old way of life apart from Christ with our new way of life in Christ.

And first, Paul wrote, **“putting aside all falsehood, we're to speak the truth one to another.”** We're not to lie to, falsely accuse or slander another person. Such behavior is devastating to the family of God, because: when we lie, we destroy the trust that's essential in order to maintain healthy relationships; when we slander, we demonstrate a lack of respect for another; when we falsely accuse, we bring hardship and injustice upon another. And such behavior is forbidden in God's family.

The Scriptures liken the Christian community to a human body. Imagine the damage that can be caused in the human body if one member lied to another. Suppose, for example, that as the body was driving a car, the ear heard the horn of an oncoming locomotive and the eye saw the flashing red lights but both withheld such information from the brain and so the foot failed to move to the brake. Or suppose the right hand touched a red hot piece of metal but the nerve endings decided to tell the brain it was the left hand.

Paul says that we're to put lying, falsehood and deception out of our lives because we're members of one body and such behavior will hurt others as well as ourselves.

Truth be told, most lies are motivated by self-interest or self-defense – putting the self above the needs of the community. And the problem with lying is that, like potato chips, one never seems to satisfy, and so each lie requires another to sustain it, until the liar finds themselves living in a world of untruth. But such a world will eventually crumbled, often causing irreparable damage – if not to others, most certainly to the integrity of the liar. Indeed, a liar amidst the body soon becomes like the little boy in the children's story who cried wolf one too many times so that he became the wolf's dinner, and his sheep became the wolf's desert.

Moreover, to practice lying is to participate in the working of the deceiver, Satan who is the “father of lies” (Jn 8:44). Instead we are to speak the truth with love -- being sensitive to the needs of others and exercising wisdom in knowing what to say, when, and how to say it (Eph 4:15). For to speak the truth -- to practice honesty -- is to show oneself trustworthy, is to respect others, and is to please God.

Next Paul addressed the issue of anger. And he wrote, **“Be angry but do not sin. Do not let the sun go down upon your anger, and do not give a place for the devil.”** Of course, the imperative, “be angry”, is one of permission, not command. Paul acknowledges that there's a place for anger, but only within strict limits, for anger can easily lead to sinful behavior. And so anger is an acceptable and necessary response at times.

Even Jesus became angry. You may recall one particular situation recorded in the third chapter of the “Gospel of Mark” (see also Mt 12:9-14; Lk 6:6-11) when Jesus, upon entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, met a man with a shriveled hand. Now, in that synagogue were some Pharisees who were seeking a reason to accuse Jesus of wrong doing, so they observed His interaction with the man. They said nothing to Jesus but He knew their hearts and this grieved and angered Him. But I don't believe Jesus became angry because they were testing Him, or even because they were seeking to trap Him. Many would do the same throughout His ministry and although this would sadden Jesus it didn't necessarily bring about a response of anger. I believe what really angered Jesus in this instance was their willingness to use the infirmity of another to achieve their own end, while showing no concern or compassion for the person in need. It's true, the Pharisees couldn't have healed the man, but they could've shown kindness toward him. Moreover, they could've rejoiced with that man when Jesus healed him, but instead they rejoiced in their wicked hearts that they now had something of which to accuse Jesus, namely, “doing work” on the Sabbath. And so, Jesus became angry, but He never allowed His anger to consume Him. He loved all people -- even His enemies.

And when He died upon the cross He gave His life for all who would believe -- whether friend or foe at the time.

There may be times when righteous anger is the proper response to a situation. For example: when lives are lost because another is careless or cruel or vindictive; or, when people are judged by their education level or earning potential or skin color or sex; or, when the lust for power leads a person to humiliate or bully anyone who stands in his or her way.

There may be a place for righteous anger.

But, when our anger begins to control us rather than us controlling and directing our anger to a useful end, we sin. When we lash out at others – our parents, our children, our co-workers, our friends, or even strangers, because of something done to us, without first seeking to understand and properly respond to the situation, we sin.

Of course sometimes our anger arises from legitimate hurts. In those cases Paul commands us not to let anger linger. As with the Jewish day, where, if at all possible, the dealings of the day were to be concluded that same day, so Paul wrote, **“Do not let the sun go down on your anger.”** Paul was not demanding that every situation that prompts righteous anger in us must be resolved before the sun sets. That may not be possible or beneficial. Rather, what Paul meant is that it must be resolved expediently, and not allowed to be carried over into other areas of our life, for when we do that our anger is no longer helpful but harmful – it’s no longer under our control but we’re under its control -- and there, the devil has us right where he wants us.

John Calvin in his commentary warns of allowing anger any place in our life, for in fact, as sinful human beings our anger is rarely if ever righteous. And if we are honest, we know that what usually angers us is not the injustice we see, but our own feelings of being slighted, or being treated unfairly, or not getting our way. Thus, as Calvin indicates, the anger people feel most often, and the anger that precipitates sin, flows from our own pride and self-centered behavior.

In contrast, the anger of Jesus Christ always flowed from His other-centered, self-giving, Father glorifying, servant-love.

And so, if we become angry, we ought to be careful to examine the cause of our anger, and be careful that our response is motivated by love -- for any other motivation will lead to the hurt of others as well as ourselves. Remember, like love, anger is a decision. No one can make you love and no one can make you angry. Your response is your choice, and one day you shall be called to account for the choice you make.

Next Paul addressed the issue of stealing. He wrote, **“The one who is stealing must steal no longer, but instead must labor with his or her hands in order that he or she might be able to share with those in need.”**

Apparently theft was a problem with members of the church at the time when Paul wrote. What’s more, from the context it appears that the theft Paul spoke of was not just taking what wasn't one’s own possessions, but robbing from the church by taking advantage of the generosity of others. Apparently even the early church had a problem with their “welfare system”! And Paul taught that these behaviors are unacceptable for those who are of the household of God.

Even more, Paul wrote that not only is stealing unacceptable, but instead, each person must work to meet their own needs and to help others in need. Thus Paul laid down a command that goes beyond the idea of providing for oneself, or even one’s immediate family, and calls believers to take the responsibility for the welfare of others.

I read in a magazine a while back of the huge toll shoplifting takes upon society. The article stated that shoplifting costs the average household over \$400 a year. Now, there has always been a contempt in society for the pick-pocket, the shoplifter, the burglar, the blue collar criminal, but as of late we’ve been awed by the large amount of white collar theft that takes place each day. It seems there are regular reports in the news of the wasteful spending of government and big business, often at the expense of many and to the benefit of a few.

But before we point the finger we need to examine our own lives and ask ourselves: Are we stealing from our employers? Are we getting paid to work 40 hours a week but find ourselves killing time in the break room, or stretching that lunch hour a few minutes here and there, or surfing the internet? And, are we giving our best while at work or just doing what we need to do to keep our job?

Are we so concerned about what we can get out of “the system” whatever our system might be, that we’re willing to let others suffer, lose their jobs, or go without basic necessities just so we can keep our niceties – our perks, our benefits?

Do we support policies that cause people to work for wages that we would never tolerate for ourselves so that we can have more of what we want?

And for us students – are we doing our own work, earning our own grades, or do we copy off of others – for to cheat on our homework, or to copy during a test, or to plagiarize from the work of others as we write our papers is to steal, which not only displeases God but discredits our integrity!

And what about our responsibilities at home? Are we taking care of our families to the best of our ability -- giving of our time and energy to meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs -- or are we hoping someone else will carry our load, perhaps the government, or the nursing home, or the school system, or the church?

And then there’s our responsibility to our world? Are we squandering resources, using and abusing God’s creation to satisfy our greed and laziness, or are we caring for and conserving the life and beauty around us? Do we find ourselves seeking to acquire more and more stuff while throwing away more in a week than many in our world ever possess in a lifetime?

Last, but certainly not least, what about our responsibility to our church? Are we practicing good stewardship of all that God has given to us – actively seeking ways to use our abilities, our time and our financial resources to further the work of the church so that others might come to hear of the love of Jesus Christ? And do we give sacrificially realizing that all that we have belongs to God? Haggai, a prophet of the Old Testament spoke strongly against people who used their riches to build their own houses and to amass their own fortunes while ignoring the Temple of God. Malachi warned the Jews that when they withheld their giving to God – their tithe -- they were in fact robbing God -- stealing from God! Are we giving generously and joyfully so that we may help the church make disciples of Jesus Christ and minister to those in need, or are we giving just enough to appease our conscience without interfering with our standard of living?

There are many ways that we steal, and we’re good at justifying most of them: The government already gets too much of my money! My boss doesn’t respect me, and besides, he owes me! Everyone else is doing it, I’m just getting my fair share! I get nothing out of my church so why should I put anything into it! How can my family expect me to give them all this stuff and my time as well!

We may not shop-lift, or hold up banks, but are we working for the purpose of helping others, or are we just seeking to help ourselves? For, you see, Paul indicated that if we don’t work with the intention of using our earnings to minister to the needs of others, we’re no different than a common thief.

Next Paul addressed the issue of our language, how we speak to one another within the family of God. He wrote that **“no unwholesome talk is to come out of our mouths.”**

Our words, are to be chosen wisely for the building up of one another and for the edifying of the body of Christ. Our words, Paul wrote, should impart grace -- should speak forth tenderness and compassion. The Psalmist in the 141st psalm (v. 3) prays for God to set a guard over his mouth, to keep watch over the doors of his lips, for he knew that, **“the tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.”** (see Prov. 15:4, 25:11).

Our words can be used to build up or tear down. God desires them to be a means of grace to sustain the weary and bring comfort to those in need. God desires for our speech to be acceptable to His ears and consistent with our calling. As Matthew admonished, our words reflect our heart for, **“Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks”** (Mt. 12:34). Sadly, for many that overflow reeks like a back-up drain!

And so it’s fitting to ask ourselves, what proceeds from our mouths? Do we attack, cut-up, put down, belittle, or, do we defend, mend, build up, and encourage? Do we honor our God and respect others with our words, or are we slow to listen but quick to criticize?

As you well know, the conversations of many TV sitcoms these days revolves around sexual immorality and put-downs, and yet we laugh! But as Christians we need to ask ourselves: Is it appropriate for God’s children to listen while people criticize, tease, and ridicule others? Is it right for us to find pleasure and get a laugh at the

expense of the feelings of others? And would such conversation, and our acceptance and enjoyment of it please God?

Of course, we know the answer to these questions, and yet, such is the daily conversation of our world, and too often of our own lips. Too often our words are seasoned with bitterness, resentment, jealousy, and pride. Too often our tongues are used to promote gossip, or to slander the character of another. This may help us to blend into our world, but this grieves God!

We're to be above the world, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to-live-and-work-and-speak in ways that show love, that help others to feel encouraged and appreciated.

Matthew wrote in chapter 12 of his Gospel, **"I tell you that people will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."** These are sobering words that ought to scare us speechless. But even more they ought to break our hearts, and convict our spirits because we know that our words have hurt others -- sometimes accidentally but too often intentionally.

Paul summarized much of the wicked behavior that he confronted by condemning all bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, fighting and malice. These behaviors are wrong because they cause hurt and division within the body of Christ, and because they grieve the very Spirit of God who ministers within the individual and the body to bring peace, love and unity to the family.

You and I are called to put off the old self and to live as followers of Jesus. And that means that we must believe and accept: that we're no longer our own; that we've been bought with a price; that we belong to God -- a loving, gracious, benevolent God -- who wants us to show forth His love in how we live, how we work, and how we speak.

Moreover, we must understand that we serve a God who mourns our disobedience, who mourns our cruelty one to another, who mourns our unwillingness to forgive and accept each other just as we are, who mourns our refusal to work together to become the people that God desires us to be.

Now, God knows we are not perfect. And so before calling us to obey His commands, He offers us forgiveness, a new heart, and the very presence and power of His Spirit to work in us. And then, knowing that we will hurt one another, He calls us to be a forgiving people -- for it's only as we learn to give and receive forgiveness that we truly grow as a community in Christ. Indeed, in a sense Paul has "upped the ante" on "The Golden Rule", for instead of exhorting us to **"do to others what we would have them do to us"** (Lk 6:31), here Paul challenges believers to do for others what God has already done for us! Christ died for us that we might be forgiven of all our sins -- of our lies and thieving, of our sinful anger and our hurtful words -- and He accepts us as we are. And so Paul challenges, if our holy God could love, forgive and accept us, surely we ought to love, forgive, and accept one another.

And to show such love and acceptance, we're to speak the truth, we're to encourage with our words, we're to work to help others, we're to give rather than take, and, we're to resolve our anger and work toward living at peace with one another (Rom 12:18). For, this is what will bring joy to our Father's heart. And, this is what will enable us to be a healthy, joy-filled family in Christ Jesus.

May we be that family, to the blessing of one another and to the glory of God.

God's grace and peace be 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 November we will be collecting pancake mix.



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

General Financial Update for September

	Year to Date	September
Total Income	\$123,273.50	\$13,671.00
Total Expenses	\$127,646.62	\$13,701.47
Difference	\$ (4,373.12)	\$ (30.47)

November Birthdays

11/2 Eric Ofori
 11/7 Gianna Ofori
 11/7 Arianna Ofori
 11/8 Jerry Whitman
 11/12 Jennifer McAuley
 11/14 Scott Miller
 11/16 Alyssa Whitman
 11/17 Megan Laz
 11/17 Vera Whitman
 11/18 Alice Bentley
 11/21 Karen Moore
 11/29 Michael Calamaras



November Anniversaries

11/18 Scott & Jaime Miller
 11/21 Dean & Doris Calamaras
 11/29 Eric & Irene (Amponsah) Ofori

Serving This Month

November 4th

Worship Assistants: Natalia Multunas
 Ella Miller
 Greeters: Vaughn Skarzynski
 Valerie Bidwell
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
 Nursery: Deena Dominy
 Diane Lewinski
 Communion: Rob Jensen
 Fellowship Hosts:

November 11th

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy
 Eric Ofori
 Greeters: Jen McAuley
 Joe Pasinella
 Head Greeter: Peter Laz
 Nursery: Lois Pasinella
 Irene Ofori
 Communion: Jason Laz, Jen McAuley,
 Jerry Whitman, Rob Jensen
 Fellowship Hosts: Holly Steciuk

November 18th

Worship Assistants: Bill & Natalia Multunas
 Greeters: Deena Dominy
 Alice Bentley
 Head Greeter: Andy Miller
 Nursery: Jen McAuley, Megan Laz
 Communion: Pat Gilmaier, Jerry Whitman, Rob Jensen,
 Fellowship Hosts: Dean & Doris Calamaras

November 25th

Worship Assistants: Eric Ofori, Jesse Ofori
 Greeters: Rob Jensen
 Bill Multunas
 Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
 Nursery: Diane Lewinsky
 Deena Dominy
 Communion: Alice Bentley, Andy Miller,
 Bill Multunas, Dean Calamaras
 Fellowship Hosts: Valerie Bidwell
 Skazynski



Winter Collection for Capital City Rescue Mission

Throughout the winter months we will be collecting new and gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves for Capital City Rescue Mission.

With the weather turning colder, the Mission struggles to provide these necessary items to those in need. There is a box near the entrance to the sanctuary for donations.



Remember in Prayer...

Our Shut-ins at home:

Tillie Herman, Marcella Goard, Jan and John Pedersen, Hazel Landry

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 the local believers that they will grow in this season in a new way.
Pray that he will be able to finish well as he heads towards the end of his two year commitment.
Pray for wisdom and guidance for his future plans.

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 **November 18th** following the worship service.

Operation Christmas Child A Gift of Joy and a Message of God's Love

Millions of children all over the world live in very difficult situations and long to know that they are loved. Since 1993, **Operation Christmas Child** (OCC) has shared the Good News of God's love with hurting children around the world.

Through simple shoe boxes filled with toys and other small gifts children receive what may be their only Christmas gift as well as the assurance that God loves them.



Shoeboxes and brochures with instructions on filling your shoebox are available in the narthex.

Shoeboxes should be brought back to the church by **November 12th**.

If you cannot pack a box but would like to participate in this project, you can give financially to help cover the shipping costs by designating your gift for OCC.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child or the ministry of Samaritan's Purse, you can go to

www.samaritanspurse.com

Bible Quiz for November 2018

Our Bible quiz continues in Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth as found in the New Testament. For this quiz our questions will come from chapter 5 and 6.

1. What did the man in the church at Corinth do that caused Paul to admonish the church for not putting him out of the church?
2. How did the church respond to that man's sin?
3. Fill in the blank: "Christ our _____ has been sacrificed"
4. True or False: When Paul admonished the church not to associate with the sexually immoral, he was talking about not associate with Christians and non-Christians.
5. Fill in the blanks: "Expel the _____ person from among you."
6. True or False: Paul instructed that the best way to deal with disputes among Christians is to take it to civil court.
7. Fill in the blank: "The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely _____ already."
8. Fill in the blanks: "You were washed, you were _____, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the _____ of our God."
9. To what sin was Paul referring when he said that whoever committed this sin was sinning against his whole body.
10. Fill in the blank: "Do you not know that your body is a _____ of God."



Veteran's Day

During the worship service on **November 11th** we will be recognizing service personnel who have served or are currently serving in the military. To include someone in this recognition please call the church office at 283-2420 with their name, branch of service and dates of service.



Holiday Luncheon (sponsored by the Senior God Squad)

**Saturday, December 8th
at noon**

We will once again be collecting monetary donations and individual food/snack items for Ronald McDonald House in Albany.

**Please RSVP to Jerry or Vera Whitman
at 518-283-4147**

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) – “We’re about to start our 4th week of teaching at our English school and that has been a lot easier than last year. I have a good group of students that have been attending faithfully and making teaching easy. Our team’s goal this year has been that we all increase our time at our library to try and make this project as hospitable and effective as possible. This has led to increased conversations with visitors about faith and has made it less isolating for the person working that day. We’ve started putting together movie nights every-other weekend where we’ve shown faith-based films and had some pretty awesome conversations after, which has even led to a Bible study with a group of guys curious to hear about what the Bible actually teaches! Due to the hard work and great ideas from team members we seem to have a new life in our library and we’re excited to see how God will work in this season.”

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. You are making a difference to women like Paige and her young son. Paige came through the doors struggling with addiction. Today she is able to devote her energy to sobriety, learning God’s Word and how to be a responsible and caring mother.

Your support of Capital City Rescue Mission is a true blessing to our entire community.”

From Andy Lightcap (Capital District YFC) – “It was the third week of August in 1998. We boarded a bus full of kids and drove off for a week of camp. One of the boys was a young man named Khristian. It broke my heart when I had to send him home early for fighting. Through middle school and high school he came to all our events, however it wasn’t until the day before he left for college that he finally surrendered his life to Jesus.

He now works for us at YFC, he loves Jesus with all his heart, and he is beginning his family with Christ at the center.

He is a far cry from that little boy with so much pain in his heart who was sent home from camp. He is a testament to the power of God in someone’s life; how He transforms them into who He wants them to be. We might not see the results, or we may have to wait years, but the work of Youth for Christ is so important because we are bringing hope to so many kids in the Capital District just like Khristian.

My hope is that you know that through your prayer and support you are helping us reach kids like Khristian. Thank you so much for what you do to help us reach lost kid with the hope of Jesus.”

From Peter Halder (Bangladesh YFC) – “An issue came up a couple of days ago which I cannot share due to security reasons. It bound me to my knees for 16 hours of non-stop reading the Scriptures and praying for His guidance, protection, and peace in my heart. It was an inexpressible anxiety and dangerous situation; God the Father saved us, Hallelujah. So what I have learned is that we are in need of your prayer and His protection.

A river in northeast India is overflowing and water is running down to the south – towards Bangladesh. The reports are saying that the north and middle parts of Bangladesh may be heavily flooded. We have three ministry centers and three Children’s Homes in that area. Pray for the safety of the youth in the Children’s Homes, for the staff of BYFC, and for the country as we deal with the flooding.

We are looking to complete our next Children’s Home by December and praying to add 30 youth in January 2019. We are also building a chapel for one of the Children’s Homes in the south. It has been a little delayed due to monsoon season. This will be an awesome blessing for our kids who will not have access for worship and a study place.

Each and every one of us at BYFC is thankful for your sincere prayers and giving to the work of BYFC. Your godly partnership makes it possible for us to help others and transform lives in our nation. Please be assured that BYFC is also praying for you.”

From Niki Campbell (InterVarsity at RPI and Sage) – “So far, at RPI and Sage we have met about 700 people who have asked us to come and deliver homemade cookies to them! That is 700 undergraduates, graduate students and faculty

members who have given us their information in the hopes of homemade cookies and a conversation!

At RPI when I asked a student if he would like to sign up on our cookie list so we can deliver him homemade cookies during the semester, his response was to ask what the deliver charge was, or what the catch was. I explained we do this as a way to serve the campus, and live faithfully to our belief that we are called to serve the students here. He looked puzzled and simply said, "I don't believe there are any inherently good people." I responded, "Neither do I...but I have a really great God who encourages me to strive for better." He signed up saying, "What do I have to lose."

Some things as simple as cookies is getting us noticed as a club who cares, a club to seek out and a club who is trustworthy to give contact info to. When we show up with cookies, we then point to Jesus, tell people who we are, why we brought them cookies and invite them to know more or come visit one of our meetings.

If you would like to assist Niki and the Christian Fellowship at RPI and Sage in their outreach to students by baking cookies please speak with Sue Laz. Due to possible allergy issues please no nuts or peanut butter.

Thanksgiving Breakfast and Worship November 22nd at 8:00 a.m.



Join us for breakfast followed by an informal time of worship.

*"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His steadfast love endures forever"
Psalm 106:1*



Growing as Disciples

Part of the work of the Inward Ministry Committee is to have resources available to help all of us in our spiritual growth.

In addition to Sunday school classes and Bible studies, there is a church library located in the corner room at the top of the stairs. There are books available on a variety of topics including Bible study, discipleship and Christian living. You are encouraged to take advantage of the resources available. Simply sign out the book you wish to read and then return it when you are finished.

In addition, there are resources available for you to take and read in the narthex –

Knowing Christ and Walking With Him, by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, looks at who Jesus is and what it means to put your faith in Him.

What Did Jesus Really Mean When He Said Follow Me?, by David Platt, challenges us to examine our spiritual life according to the biblical standard.

More Than a Carpenter, by Josh McDowell. McDowell was a skeptic and decided to do his own research to disprove the claims of Jesus and the beliefs of Christians. To his surprise, he discovered that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be.

Who is Jesus, by R.C. Sproul. No person in history has provoked such widely divergent assessments as Jesus of Nazareth. By wrestling with the biblical titles for Jesus and the accounts of His life and ministry, Dr. Sproul unfolds the scriptural portrait of Jesus, the Son of God.

What is the Great Commission?, by R.C. Sproul, explores the great commission by laying out the biblical basis for missions, defining the gospel and evangelism, and addressing the need to mobilize Christian believers for missions. This book is a challenge to the church and to individual Christians to obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples.

The Upper Room is a bi-monthly daily devotional magazine with Scripture readings and prayers for each day.

Our prayer is that everyone will take advantage of the various resources that are available as, together, we seek to grow as disciples.

SESSION MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2018

CLERK'S REPORT

- Next Communications will be served:
 - 11/04 by Rob Jensen (Intinction).
 - 11/11 by Jason Laz, Jen McAuley, Jerry Whitman and Natalia Multunas.
- Miscellaneous Information:
 - Preaching Rotation:
 - Sue Laz 11/25
 - Bill Multunas 12/30
 - Andy Miller & Sal Sceccitano TBD
 - Reminder of Activities before the next Business Meeting:
 - 11/07 – Bible Study at Eddy at 10:30 AM.
 - 11/11 – Worship & Communion at The Eddy at 3:30 PM.

UPWARD MINISTRY (Encounter, Exalt, Enjoy)

WORSHIP & PRAYER

- Perry Jones from Capital City Rescue Mission preached on 09/30 and shared about some of the work of the Mission.
- Played a slideshow during Worship on World Communion Sunday (10/07), highlighting our mission partners in the US and around the world.
- We will be recognizing veterans in the congregation on 11/11 for Veteran's Day.
- Planning is underway for the Thanksgiving Breakfast/Worship time Thanksgiving morning.
- Choir is looking at the possibility of moving from the choir loft to sitting in the congregation and coming forward when they sing, like the setup for the Men's Ensemble.
- We will be doing an insert in the Order of Worship for people to sign up or update their information for the Prayer Chain.
- We are also looking at the design and text of the Order Of Worship to see what can be refreshed.

INWARD MINISTRY (Encourage, Equip)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- Visitation, phone calls and cards are an ongoing ministry. Thanks especially to Doris Calamaras, Alice Bentley, Jerry and Vera Whitman.

CHRISTIAN NURTURE

OUTWARD MINISTRY (Engage, Evangelize, Extend)

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

- We will once again participate in Operation Christmas Child. Information was given out on Sunday. Shoeboxes and extra brochures are available in the Narthex..
- The next Questions of Faith event will be November 18th from 6-7:30 PM. And we will be

looking at Jesus – Who is He and why is He so important.

- We are considering planning a meal and inviting clients from the Food Pantry to come and share a meal with us. This would be an opportunity for us to make some connections with folks from the community and would provide a hot meal and fellowship for those in need.

STEWARDSHIP

GENERAL FUND/FINANCE

- We had a negative cash flow during September of \$ 30.47. This gives us a year-to-date deficit of \$4,373.12.
- Stewardship season is under way. Eric will be doing a Minute For Ministry on 11/04/18.

PERSONNEL

- Patty Gruner has started as Church Secretary.
- A gift will be given to Peggy Siracusa this week in recognition of her service to Third Presbyterian Church over the last 17 years.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Business: November 12th at church at 7PM. Please read *Holiness*, by J. C. Ryle, Chapter 10.



Help Wanted

Nursery Attendants are needed to care for little ones in the nursery while their parents are in worship (you must be at least 11 years old). You would be part of a two-person team and would need to be in the nursery by 10:20. There is a speaker in the nursery so that you can still listen to the worship service.

We currently have a great group of people who rotate in their service in the nursery but there is always room to add others to this important ministry.

If you would like to be a part of the nursery ministry please speak with Sue Laz.

From Music and AV Ministries...

“Big C, Little c”

Ever since I came to Third Church four years ago, a consistent topic of conversation for Pastor John and me at our occasional breakfasts has been concerning a potential paradigm shift for our church choir. The norm has been for the choir to don robes and sit in the choir loft of the chancel, singing a choral introit and offertory anthem before dismissing to the sanctuary pews following the singing of the Doxology. Depending on the size of the choir and the size of the rest of the congregation on any given Sunday, that could produce a substantial shift! But we’ve also known that there are two distinct choirs at work here, for the congregation itself should be considered the Great Choir (with a capital “C”). It will be the Great Choir that we’ll all join in with in eternal, heavenly worship. The Book of Revelation speaks of this:

And they sang a new song, saying:
“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

I’m happy to report that I won’t be recruiting for this choir--you’re in it, like it or not! Don’t worry--you will! But what about all those countless choirs in churches all over the world? Those I call choirs with a small “c”--people who’ve chosen to set themselves apart to both lead the Great Choir in worship and also to be trained in the singing of special musical offerings that not only give praise to God but also help turn the hearts of the rest of God’s people toward him.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns
and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16)

This testifies to the power of music to ingrain, to instill and to cement the truths of God’s Word in our hearts. 2 Timothy 3:16 speaks of the Scriptures being profitable for doctrine, reproof and correction. We can let that Word dwell richly in us and we can also teach and admonish one another in love through our psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

So, here’s what we’re thinking: instead of bunching a group of people gifted in singing together up in a “loft”, we’re going to try scattering them around the sanctuary so their voices can be an encouragement to others around them as we sing those psalms, hymns and spiritual songs and then have that “small c choir” come forth out of the congregation, the Great Choir and sing their special offering of praise front and center, returning to their seats afterward. No need to set them apart in a different place; no need to distinguish them with robes--out of the many coming the few with a separate and distinct purpose.

Now for the DISCLAIMER!

This in NO WAY absolves you of YOUR responsibility to “make a joyful noise unto the LORD”.
Sing on, people. Sing on!

With Joy in the Journey,

Sal Scechitano

Questions of Faith

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.

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.

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

Third Presbyterian Church
115 Winter Street
Troy, NY 12180

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EXALTING GOD / PROCLAIMING CHRIST / MAKING DISCIPLES