

Third Word News & Notes



OCTOBER 2013

CHOOSE TO SEE

On October 1 I attended a retreat for the Clergy of the Northeast Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches, held at Wisdom House in Litchfield, CT. It was a beautiful day and the Fall colors were on full display. We were asked to bring our Bibles and our camera as well as a favorite photograph that we have taken. The theme of the retreat was "Choose to See". It included a short lesson on tips for photographers and then some of these principles were applied to all aspects of our work and life. Several lessons on the subject of photography corresponded with lessons on the Christian life that can make our everyday activities more creative and productive. Even our theme, "Choose to See" was based on Jesus' words of instruction, "Those who have eyes, let them see, and those who have ears, let them hear". It is amazing how much we fail to see with our eyes, and to hear with our ears. Unless our hearts are right, and our intentions are to truly see and hear, we will stumble through life blind to the work of God around us and deaf to the voice of God that calls us to draw near.

One of the things that set Jesus apart from other teachers was his eyes and ears were always wide open to the presence of God and the work of God in the world. He saw God at work in the flowery meadows and seeded fields. He saw the spectacular beauty of nature and the ordinariness of our daily work as inhabited by God, and speaking to us with the voice of God, if only we choose to see and listen. Let us choose to see what God is doing around us, and pray that he will show us his beauty in countless ways.

Blessings,

Pastor Norm

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." ~ Helen Keller

Pilgrim Fellowship Service Project



Our PF group shared in a day of service on October 13th. We have joined with the Portland Congregational Church, the East Hampton Congregational Church and St. Mary Church of Portland to perform 4 service projects over the coming year. This month, the Portland Congregational Church set up a clean-up project for a woman in Portland. We mowed, cut and clipped in the yard. There were about 15 youth and 6 adults helping during the afternoon. The youth stated the day with a lunch of pizza and soda, played some games to get to know each other and headed over to work. It was a great day of service and fellowship for 5 of our youth. We are meeting again in December at our church to work on a project for Amazing Grace and have some fun together.

Harvest Dinner October 19th

A generous donation has made the purchase of a new 10 burner, 2 oven, propane stove a reality. The stove will serve us well for years to come in the preparation of our community dinners. PFS christened the stove for the Harvest Dinner. Diners were served pork roast, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, green beans, homemade applesauce and a choice of delicious apple or pumpkin pie. Approximately 145 dinners were served that night with a great turn out of volunteers to serve, set up and clean up after the dinner. PFS is grateful for both the volunteers and the diners, especially to those who are repeat customers over the years. We look forward to the Breakfast with Santa in December.



A Loving Bequest

The Trustee Meeting September 29th opened with an announcement that we received a bequest of \$100,000 from the estate of Arline Rich who passed away July 20, 2012. The Trustees decided to divide the bequest as follows: \$5000 toward the Arline Rich Scholarship Fund in order to continue the fund for the future. Each student recipient is awarded \$500 toward their college expenses. \$10,000 will be put into the Endowment Fund in the name of Arline Rich. \$50,000 will be put into an investment account. \$35,000 will be put into the capital improvement fund. \$20,000 has been allocated to replace the windows in the sanctuary.



We at Third Church are so grateful to Arline Rich and her generous bequest. We hope that we have allocated the funds in a way that would make her happy.

Abigail Tea Party

The annual Abigail Tea Party took place October 6th. There were many lovely decorated tables this year. There were many raffle prizes to win and a silent auction. The ladies were served by the handsome gentlemen of the church decked out in their finest. Thank you to Cookie Stojak, Bobbie Steward and Karen Keathley who headed the event. It is always enjoyed by all who attend.

