

Third Word News & Notes



MAY 2012

Pastor's Message *The Walk to Emmaus*

On May 6 Third Congregational Church celebrated Confirmation Sunday when eleven of our youth graduated from our two year Confirmation Program and were welcomed as members of our congregation. It was a happy occasion in a full sanctuary with many proud parents and family members looking on. Our reading for the morning was taken from Luke 24:13-35 which tells the story of the walk to Emmaus by two disciples of Jesus on Easter morning. They were joined in their walk by a stranger who talked with them on the way. The two disciples were saddened by the crucifixion of Jesus just three days earlier and couldn't make sense of it. The stranger helped them to see that everything that happened to Jesus was a fulfillment of the scriptures. He said that the Christ must first suffer and die and then be glorified. As the stranger spoke they felt their hearts catch fire and the light began to turn on in their minds. At Emmaus they invited the stranger to share a meal with them. When he gave thanks and broke bread with them their eyes were suddenly opened to the presence of Jesus. The Easter faith was ignited in their hearts. In a spirit of great joy they returned to Jerusalem declaring that the Lord was risen indeed!

The spiritual transformation of those two disciples from a state of confusion to a faith in the risen Jesus is something that we try to duplicate in the lives of our students. Our confirmation program is therefore a "walk to Emmaus" where we lead them from things they learned in Sunday school to a heart-felt faith centered in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. To the Confirmation class of 2012 I say, Congratulations, and welcome to the Adventure of faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Norm

Mission Opportunity



The Missions and Outreach Committee is putting together a trip to Pittsburgh, PA to work at Hosanna Industries. This organization builds homes for those in need. It is a NACCC sponsored organization. The trip will be August 6th through August 10th for all who are interested. Bruce Chapin is heading up the committee and can answer any questions that you may have. Consider joining us in PA this summer. We have a few members interested but we would like to have many more. The total cost per person will be \$100.00 plus traveling expenses.

Confirmation Class of 2012

Eleven students were confirmed on May 6th. The students and their parents affirmed their baptism and then were inducted as members of Third Church. It was a moving and wonderful ceremony marking the end of a two year commitment by the parents and students..



Blood Drive At Third Church

A Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the church on Wednesday, April 25th. The event was led by Cookie Stojak and was helped by Gail Wright, Toni Dadario and Karen Keathley.

PF Gearing Up For Relay For Life

The PF group is once again participating in Relay For Life. This is a 24 hour walk to bring awareness and raise money for cancer research and cures. The group will spend the night in tents and one member of the team must be walking for all of the 24 hours. Our theme this year is Halloween. We will have some items to purchase and some games to play to continue to raise money for our team. If you are interested in donating toward our team called, TC3, please contact Kim Kennedy or Corrine Sternberg at 860-632-0733.

Ladies Aid Quilt Raffle

The Ladies Aid has made a wonderful quilt for the upcoming Strawberry Festival on June 14th. The quilt is colorful and tickets are \$3.00 each and will be announced following the festival.



Westfield Fireman's BBQ

The annual BBQ was held on Saturday, May 5th. The fireman are preparing the chicken that is cooked on the fire pit at Third Church. It is an annual fundraising event.

Dates To Remember

5/11	Missions Tag & Bake Sale	4-8PM
5/12	Missions Tag & Bake Sale	9-2PM
6/14	Strawberry Festival	11-4:30PM
6/17	Recognition Sunday	10AM
7/12	PFS Ice Cream Social	6-8PM