

Third Word News & Notes



NOVEMBER 2012

Pastor's Message

THE JOY OF THE LORD

Jesus once told a story about a wealthy entrepreneur who entrusted three men with large sums of his money and instructed them to increase it by putting it to good use. He expected them to use their creative energy to invest it prudently but aggressively in ways that would bring him a maximum return. Two of them got right to work and in time each doubled the money that had been entrusted to them. When their benefactor called them one by one into his office to give an account of what they had done, those who had something to show for their efforts proudly announced how much wealth they had created to add to their boss's estate. They were happy over what they were able to achieve and they had fun doing it. Their boss was so happy with the value they had added to his initial investment in them that he exclaimed, "Well done! Become a partner with me in the work that I do that brings us so much profit and so much joy."

This old story cheers me up whenever I hear it because it is a vivid reminder that there are great rewards that come to those who dedicate their time and talents creatively and persistently to acts of Christian service. At this time of year as the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays draw near, there are many opportunities to do good work that lay before us. The investment that Jesus makes in us is able to create new possibilities in the lives of others, and bring rewards to us that are far greater than any amount of money can buy. Partnership with the Lord in Christian service brings joy to us and joy to the world.

*Blessings,
Pastor Norm*

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

The Missions Committee is collecting small items for the mugs for St. Vincent DePaul and The Eddy Shelter. Small size toiletries, washcloths, mittens, long underwear, heavy socks and other items are now being accepted. Please remember those in great need this holiday season.

3rd Church Hosts Ct Fellowship Meeting

A full day of events took place here on October 21st during a meeting of The Connecticut Fellowship. There was a guest speaker, Dr. Margaret Bendroth who is the Executive Director of the Congregational Library. Pastor Norm also gave a sermon about the citizenship of heaven. The Reception Committee put on a wonderful tea and the PFS group served a heavenly meal of chicken cordon bleu. The choir also sang for the gathering.



Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



A great meal, great friends and great fellowship were the words of the day on November 18th. The Deacons put on a great meal once again for the members of the congregation. All were invited to sit down and enjoy a full Thanksgiving meal. Many great treats were provided by the members. The dessert table was full of cakes and pies. Thanks to Jeff Meehl and to the members of the Deacons for all of their hard work.

Ladies Aid Holiday Bazaar

The bazaar was held early this year due to some scheduling issues. There were rooms filled with many treasures. The kitchen was open and serving soup and sandwiches. The cookie table seemed to be the most active during the day. It was a great way to start that holiday shopping.

Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship Committee has been hard at work. This past Sunday families were asked to make their yearly pledge. Many families have pledge and as of November 18th the total received stands at \$37,100. The committee will continue working until they can fill the full budget of \$136,450.00 for 2013.

Treasurer's Corner by Sharon Maloney

The total income for the year through October was \$100,051. Expenses so far for the year were \$105,753. Pledges received are now up to 70.5 % but should be 83.33% - a shortfall of \$13,961. Year to October 31, 2012 **expenses exceeded revenue by \$5,702.** Pledge statements have been sent out. Anyone who has any questions on their statement should contact me. We all run into tough times. If you are in a situation where you do not expect to be able complete your pledge please let me know. You can call, mail me a note or drop a message in my mailbox.

Upcoming Events

12/1	Breakfast With Santa
12/8	Fellowship Christmas Party
12/23	Children's Christmas Pageant
12/24	Christmas Eve Services; 5:00 Family, 11:00 Candlelight