

Third Word News & Notes



OCTOBER 2012

Pastor's Message

Last Sunday afternoon Barbara and I went on a scenic drive of about 100 miles to Berkshire Community Church in rural Western Massachusetts. The colorful Fall foliage was on full display as we drove to a Vicenage Council and Ordination service for Nancy Lois who is one of our valued friends. Barbara was to be the moderator of the Council and I was invited to deliver a charge to the minister and congregation. The Congregation went to great lengths to make this occasion special in every way. The service and reception was greatly uplifting for the delegates and members who were in attendance. Events like this give us an opportunity to celebrate with a church that has called a new pastor. My assignment to write charges to the pastor and church reminded me how unique and special the relationship between a church and its pastor really is. A good working relationship between church and pastor doesn't just happen. It takes much prayer and hard work by all involved. It helps to be reminded of the things that help create and sustain a fruitful, enduring ministry that nourishes both the pastor and the congregation. With that thought in mind I will share excerpts of the charges I read to Pastor Nancy Lois and Berkshire Community Church.

To the pastor I stressed how important it is to spend time in prayer, praise, study and reflection. But equally important is the privilege of embodying God's love for all the members of the congregation: befriend them, pray for them, forgive them, visit them when they are sick, and eat, drink and laugh with them when they are healthy.

To the congregation I said, Honor your pastor for the sake of the holy calling he or she has answered. Be honest and authentic in all your words and deeds. Be hospitable. Open your homes to build bonds of love and friendship. Keep the channels of communication open. Don't assume your pastor is aware of every need or concern. Know that your commitment to the ministry of the congregation is one of the best gifts you can give to your pastor. Be compassionate. Pastoring is difficult and demanding work and none of us is perfect. Finally, remember Jesus' command to love one another as I have loved you. Love builds up, Love covers a multitude of sins. The greatest of Christian graces is love. When a church and its pastor fulfill their Christian responsibilities to each other both will be blessed of God.

*Blessings,
Pastor Norm*

“Above everything, love one another earnestly, because love covers over many sins.” 1Peter 4:8

PFS Harvest Dinner



There was a great turn out of guests for the annual Harvest Dinner. The menu consisted of pork roast, mashed potatoes, butternut squash and green beans. Dessert was either pumpkin pie or apple pie a la mode. There was a large contingency of volunteers to cook, serve and wait on our loyal diners. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make the evening a success. The PF group was able to make \$79.50 toward the Relay For Life team from generous donations at the event.

Abigail Tea

A great afternoon was had by all at the annual Abigail Tea held on October 7th. Cookie Stojak and her committee put on a lovely event once again. All the tables were decorated individually by the hostesses and they were lovely. Some had antique china and some were festive with the season. The men once again served the ladies clad in tuxedo shirts and one with a full tuxedo for the event. Thanks to the volunteers and to those who donated raffle prizes. We look forward to next year already.



Confirmation Class Scavenger Hunt



The confirmation class went on a team building outing on September 30th to Empower in Middletown, Ct. They participated in a scavenger hunt to find six clues and finish the hunt. Six of our students participated along with three chaperones. It was tough at times especially for the Moms of the group. But the Moms were triumphant and finished with the best time and point total. It was a great experience.

The next class for confirmation will take place on October 28th and be followed by participation in the annual Crop Walk at the Middlefield Federated Church.

Treasurer's Corner by Sharon Maloney

The total income for the year through September was \$89,989. Expenses so far for the year were \$97,066. Year to September 30, 2012 **expenses exceeded revenue by \$7,077.** Pledges received were 68% of budget, which is under the 87.50% it should be at this time of the year. Many members were away over the summer and get behind on their contributions. I am hopeful that they will continue to catch up. 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 to complete your pledge, please let me know. You can call, mail a note or drop a note in my mailbox.

Upcoming Events

10/21	Ct Fellowship Meeting
10/27	Ladies Aid Holiday Bazaar 9Am to 2PM
10/28	Crop Walk
11/18	Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
12/1	Breakfast With Santa