

Third Word News & Notes



FEBRUARY 2014

Pastor's Message

SUNDAY MORNING, HAPPY HOUR?

Disney World is popularly known as the “happiest place on earth”. I have been there a few times and it is indeed a delightful place that can be a lot of fun for young and old alike. But whether visitors stay there for a weekend or a week, they might also go away thinking that Disney World is also one of the most “expensive places on earth.” Whatever happiness one finds there doesn’t come cheap. Most restaurants and bars offer a “Happy Hour” most weekdays when drinks and certain menu items are available at a discount. This marketing strategy has proved to be very popular because all of us like to visit happy places whether they cost us money, or save us money. All of us are engaged in a search for happiness Monday through Saturday, but what about Sunday? Why isn’t the church known as the happiest place on earth? And why isn’t our Sunday morning service known as Happy Hour”? Maybe church attendance nationally and across all denominations is on the decline because churches are not known as happy places.

To boost attendance some churches have become less traditional thinking this will make them more seeker friendly. Others have chosen to double down on the “old time religion” with its hellfire and damnation preaching. My own thoughts center on Jesus. I believe he was the happiest person on earth. Happy people are attractive, so people flocked to him. Happiness is contagious, so wherever Jesus went, and people gathered around to listen and converse, that place became the happiest place on earth. Worship and study became a reason for celebration. What did Jesus talk about? He told the people why they had every reason to be happy. Rejoice, because God is for us not against us! Rejoice along with the angels in heaven because those who were lost have been found. Rejoice, because what you have learned is a pearl of great price. Be happy, even when you mourn because you will be comforted. Be happy, even when you feel small and meek, because you will inherit the earth. Be happy, even when you are persecuted, because you are the kingdom of God. Rejoice, because your reward is great. Let’s recover the legacy of happiness that Jesus left us, and make our congregation the happiest place on earth. Amen

*Blessings,
Pastor Norm*

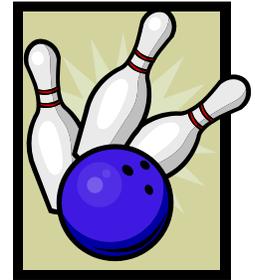


240th Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was once again held on Superbowl Sunday, February 2nd. We had a great attendance. The meeting began with David Tycz, President, thanking everyone for their service to the church. We want to thank David for taking over as President, when Brian Mendoza moved out of the state. Dave has done a great job as President. The new officers are Kim Kennedy, President; Ken Joy, Vice President; Lori Albert, Corporate Secretary. We are still in need of an assistant secretary. A roll of Remembrance and a prayer ended the meeting. We are looking forward to a great new year in 2014. At the meeting, the slate of nominees and the 2014 budget was passed with a unanimous vote.

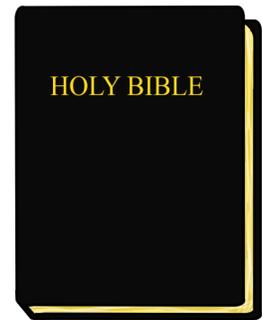
Pilgrim Fellowship Lock In

The Youth Group held a lock in on January 31st. The students began the session by making dinner for 5 families recognized by the Missions group in need. We made Shepards Pie with rolls and brownies for those families. We went off to T-Bowl Lanes and played several games of bowling and a session of laser tag. The 12 students who spent the night at the church played games and formed new friendships during the rest of the evening. We finished the lock in with a breakfast of pancakes, bacon and juice. Thanks to Tom Tomer and Jackie Clark who helped to deliver the meals to our families. Also, thanks to Janice Drescher who helped to drive some of our group to and from the bowling alley. We look forward to our next outing. We are volunteering at the Special Olympics in March as helpers to the participants in the skiing events in Simsbury, CT.



Evolution, The Bible & The Christian Faith

Third Church is sponsoring an event on Friday, February 28th at 6:00PM which will provide an opportunity to view a power point presentation on the topic of Evolution, The Bible and The Christian Faith. The evening will begin with a pizza supper followed by a presentation and discussion period. Pastor Norm will share his perspective on this subject and invite others to do the same.



Leadership Vision Breakfast



A breakfast meeting was held for members of our church on Saturday, February 22nd. We had a wonderful meal prepared by Randy Root, Lori Albert, Barbara DiMauro, Grace Fiderio and Kim Kennedy. Thirty participants enjoyed a delicious breakfast and then were treated to a video presentation called "Celebrate What's Right With The World". It talked about how having a positive attitude toward the world and seeing change as an opportunity can help us to be our best or the world. All that attended went away with a better outlook and ways that we can choose to be positive and make a difference here at Third Church.