

# Third Word News & Notes



JUNE 2013

## *Recognition Sunday Homily "Home" by Michel Buble*

I have listened to that song many times and I love it. I thought of this church and the students who are graduating soon and going off to college. Some of the lyrics really touch me such as "I know why you could not come along with me, this was my dream but you always believed in me". It is so true how we feel about our children, our nieces and nephews, the children of our close friends or the students here in this church. I wanted to emphasize two things to our graduates and to their families. The first, that this church is always your home. You can go away to school, we are going to be here when you are on breaks, you can move away to find jobs, we will be here when you visit. We will be here for all of your future events like weddings, baptisms and your children starting their own faith journey. This is your home now and forever. Never doubt that you will always be welcomed with open arms. I am reminded of the story of the Prodigal son. One son leaves home, he squanders his inheritance and then makes his way back home. He sits starving by the side of a pig pen. He decides to ask his father if he can be a hired hand, he does not believe he would be welcomed home. The father sees his sons from a distance but instead of denying him, he brings him a robe, puts a ring on his finger, sandals on his feet and serves up a feast. He is welcomed with open arms. That is family....that is a true home. My second point would be this, and this is not only for our graduates but all of us. Be the way you were made. I walk most mornings and look to music to get motivated. Ask Leslie, I come in sometimes very excited because I think some music will really work for our church. I listened to a song called The Way I Was Made. by Chris Tomlin. The chorus goes like this:

**I want to live like there is no tomorrow, I want to dance like no one's around, I want to sing like nobody's listening Before I lay my body down. It goes on to say: I want to give like I have plenty, I want to love like I'm not afraid, I want to be the person I was meant to be, I want to be they way I was made.**

I hope that we can take those words and really grasp them, live them and feel free to be who we are today and always. How God made us. We are all so special, unique and wonderful. Be that person, don't be afraid to try, don't be afraid to live and take risks. Be The Way You were made.. as God intended

*Blessings,  
Kim Kennedy*

## Recognition Sunday

What a great day on June 9th. We recognized our students, teachers, parents and congregation for another great year in Sunday School. Third Action, the praise band, played three songs for the congregation. Alex Kennedy sang a solo called "Home" by Michael Buble during the offertory. We have such great talent in the church, especially among our youth. We honored three graduates: Abbey D'Onofrio is graduating from Middletown High School and will attend Eastern CT State University, Lauren Hodge is also a graduate of Middletown High and will attend Ithaca College in NY. Sage Hojda is a graduate of Cromwell High School and will attend Manchester Community College. All the graduates were given a new bible and our best wishes. We had two scholarship winners. Lauren Hodge and Sage Hojda won the Arline Rich Scholarship Award this year. They were each given \$250.00 toward their college costs. Both applicants were equally qualified, so it was too hard to choose one winner. We are so proud of both of them. We



recognized Trevor Drescher with the highest attendance award, 29 out of 34 Sundays. A special award was also given to Ellie Hojda. She worked so hard on the Relay For Life campsite this year but did not win first place at the Relay. We gave her an award to show how much we loved her design. She made the campsite look like a gingerbread house for the Hansel & Gretel theme that we chose for the event. The team raised just over \$1100.00 for the American Cancer Society. We are proud of our students, we thank our teachers for their continued dedication. We also thank the congregation for it's support throughout the year.



## Annual Strawberry Festival

There were many hands to do the work again this year. Thanks to the leadership of Leslie Hassmann, the festival was another great success. The weather was no too cooperative but the diners came through the rain for their taste of the best shortcake in town. There were about 15 –20 bakers on Tuesday to make about 1480 biscuits. We had at least double the number of volunteers on Thursday to help serve, clean and sell the shortcakes. The Ladies Aid was so grateful for all of the wonderful help that was given by many members, friends and students.

