

Third Word News & Notes

JUNE 2014

Pastor's Message

**GIVE ME HAPPINESS, O LORD, FOR I GIVE MYSELF TO YOU"
PSALM 86:4**

The Psalmist in the verse cited above, prays for something that all of us are looking for: Happiness and the Good Life. In our quest for happiness we are frequently our own worst enemy. The greatest obstacle to happiness is our human nature. Our natural instincts and desires for food, shelter, security, prestige, power and love are incapable of satisfying our insatiable appetites. No matter how much of these things we acquire there is always room in our souls for dissatisfaction to take root and grow. Our human nature driven by our desire and fear says, "There is no such thing as too much, only too little!"

Happiness doesn't come from things we acquire or from our accomplishments. Happiness grows out of our state of mind. This is why a person of modest means can feel satisfaction and be happier than a wealthy person whose only interest is to acquire more. All of us are tempted to follow that path. The battle for happiness is not won by acquiring more, but by battling against our insatiable desires. This is something that God can help us to do.

The Psalmist who prays for happiness also shows us that the first steps on the path to happiness is to give ourselves to God. In so doing we are freed from the drive to find happiness outside of ourselves and accept it as a gift from God. Only God can satisfy the desires of our heart. True happiness is a byproduct of serving others in service to God.

Summer blessings to all,

Pastor Norm



New Curtains For The Sanctuary

Thanks to the hard work of Ladies Aid, and the Trustees, Third Church now has beautiful new curtains in the sanctuary. The curtains are white with a lovely pattern. Thank you to Paul Kennedy, Dana Andrew and Leslie Hassmann for

taking a few hours out of their weekend to hang them. The old curtains are in the clothing shed to add to our monthly collection. The new curtains look wonderful and brighten up the sanctuary. Their purchase was made possible by the generous bequest of Arline Rich.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Standing Committee Meeting will take place on June 29th after worship. We will be discussing carpet for the main entryway and tile for the CE area that will be replaced in July. We are taking July off from Standing Committee and will meet again August 24th.

PFS is holding an Ice Cream Social on July 10th with an all you can eat sundae buffet. Bring your own banana!

Vacation Bible School is July 12th from 9AM to 3PM. We have many great centers planned. There is plenty of space available.

Rally Sunday is planned for September 7th with food and games for all. It is a great way to celebrate the new year.

Arline K Rich Scholarship Award

We are pleased to announce the winner of the Arline Rich Scholarship award is Nicholas Rodo. Nick will be graduating from Middletown High School on June 20th. Nick was recently honored for having made High Honor Roll all four years at MHS. He is a student athlete and has done several service projects for his school and served the church in many ways as well. He is going to be studying Chemical Engineering at University of New Haven in the fall.

We had three deserving candidates this year. The committee read through three applications and was hard

pressed to pick just one winner of the \$500.00 scholarship. The committee would like to wish all of the candidates the best of luck at their colleges of choice next year. God bless the students and their parents during their transition to the next phase of their lives.



Vice President Ken Joy presenting the award.

Recognition Sunday 2014

The annual Recognition Sunday was June 8th. We recognized the many volunteers and students who participate in our program. We started the morning off with a special award to Pastor Norm from the NACCC. He was given an award for his work on a History and Polity course that he contributed to for all students of Congregationalism. We also had a special award for Dana Andrew who has worked tirelessly and without notice on many projects over the years. We are truly appreciative of his efforts. The theme this year was "Mold Me, Shape Me" with part of the theme coming from a writing by Roger Fields called The Calling. It is a great reminder that we are all ministers to children as Christians. We honored four graduates on June 1st. Sam Clark, who will attend UCONN in the fall, Chris Chapin, who will attend Eastern Connecticut, Nate Chapin, who will attend vocational training and be working and Nick Rodo who will attend the University of New Haven. On June 29th we will honor two additional graduates, Sydney White who will attend Central CT

and Kayla Keathley who will attend University of New Hampshire.

Sunday school will begin again in September. Vacation Bible School will take place on July 12th from 9AM to 3PM. It is **Workshop of Wonders** this year, where we find that God helps to shape us in every way. It will be a great day of fun, crafts, games, science and stories. We hope to have many students come and participate.



Strawberry Festival A Great Success!



The annual Strawberry Festival took place on June 12th. The week began with mixing the batter on Monday, baking the biscuits on Tuesday and hulling and serving on Thursday. Ladies Aid Society is so grateful for the many hands that made the work easier this year. The take out lines were long, the dining room lines were out the door for a few

hours and the shortcake was wonderful. Over 1000 people were served. Thank you to the members of Ladies Aid who made the beautiful quilt this year to be raffled.

