

Third Word News & Notes



MAY 2013

Pastor's Message

IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS

*"Your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
Your young ones shall see visions,
Your old ones shall dream dreams."*

Acts 2:17

One of the great show tunes of all time is *The Impossible Dream*, which was the theme song of the popular Broadway musical, *Man of La Mancha*. Its first performances were at the Godspeed Opera House before it played in New York City for seven years and then was made into a motion picture. The story is about an errant knight who sees the world differently from everyone else, but whose dreams and visions change the people around him. One of the lessons from this story is that there is great power in dreams, visions and prophecies.

May brings us to the season of Pentecost which celebrates the beginning of the Christian Church nearly 2000 years ago. The church came into being when the Spirit of God descended upon the disciples 50 days after Easter and they declared that God was doing a new thing. Pentecost was the fulfillment of ancient prophecies about the days when God would give his Spirit to everyone. The elderly will dream dreams. Youth will see visions. Men and women from the least to the greatest will prophesy. The lesson here is that we Christians live and are sustained by dreams, visions, and prophecies. Far from being relics of a distant, bygone era, dreams, visions, and prophecies are the building blocks and guideposts of our lives. What does this mean?

As boys and girls we had dreams that intrigued and captured our imaginations. We had visions of ourselves as cowboys or Indian princesses, or detectives, astronauts, firemen, musicians, teachers, or tycoons. Others encouraged us in our dreams, and told us to keep dreaming because one day they could come true. As we grew older our dreams changed and grew with us. Throughout adulthood our dreams, visions and prophecies continue to inspire and guide us. Dreams shape us and make life worth living.

Jesus dreamed about building a church which would be a place where everyone could find love, acceptance, and forgiveness. It would be a place where the Spirit of God could touch everyone, inspire them with new dreams, enlighten them with visions of a better world, and speak through them of a hopeful future. Sharing with one another our dreams, visions, and prophecies is an indication that God really is among us. Amen

*Blessings,
Pastor Norm*



Confirmation Class of 2013

We are so proud to announce our recent graduates of Confirmation class. We had four students graduate after completing their two year program: Dominick Aronson, Sarah Ferrigno, Erika Hojda and Kaitlyn Tomer. The students completed 12 classes of instruction, an outing to Fisher's Island, a team building exercise at Empower, some instruction on other religions and some community service. Kaitlyn wrote an essay on her experience due to other commitments that interfered with a community service project. The students completed their instruction by choosing and writing the service for May 5th. The students chose the Psalm and wrote the responsive call to worship, chose the readings and wrote the invocation. The invocation was taken from the essay written by Kaitlyn. It was a moving service for both the students and the parents, who have a role in the ceremony. We look forward to our next graduating class in May of 2014.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thanks to Cookie Stojak who organized the blood drive at Third Church again this year. The blood drive was a great success. There were approximately 100 appointments for the day. The need for blood is so high in the state, so this event really goes a long way in helping our community. There were many volunteers and Red Cross staff on hand to accommodate the many people who donated this life saving blood. Thanks to all the volunteers and the people who donated, you are all special.



Mother's Day Basket Raffle

The annual Mother's Day Basket Raffle was held on May 12th. There were five baskets this year. There was a variety of items from fun in the sun, to pampering with chocolates, margarita mania and Durham Sugar house syrup. All proceeds will go the Relay For Life Team, TC3, from Third Church. The Relay takes place on June 1st to June 2nd. It is a great day and night of activities, raffles, games and music for 24hours. Come on down and visit for a few hours at the Woodrow Wilson track.

Missions Tag & Bake Sale

There was another success Tag & Bake Sale put on by our Missions & Outreach Committee. Many members donated their gently used items for sale. The day started off very busy on Friday night and then tapered off a bit on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to those that donated items for sale or a baked good. A great thanks to those that volunteered to work at the event. Many hands helped to make the clean up go much quicker. Thanks to those in the confirmation class who were able to make it to do their volunteer hours. The students helped at the Tag Sale and in the garden. A profit of approximately \$1400 was made to use toward the good works of the Missions Committee.

**The great and glorious masterpiece of man is to know how
to live to purpose.
Michel de Montaigne**