

### **A Message from Pastor Vern**

Every spring when I first take my motorcycle out of the shed, I have to review the basics. Can I still balance? Do I remember how to release the clutch and give the proper amount of throttle? Is it still possible for me to lift the bike off its kick stand? And once I get rolling and take to the road, there are a whole other set of things I must remember. Turning requires leaning (watch out fear factor). Did I check the tire pressure and oil level? How much gas do I have? "Oh, I remember what that sand on the corner is like" (more fear factor). What is it I am to do when I stop - put my feet down? And on and on it goes. The learning curve gets steep all over again come March - April & May.

And eventually I remember all that I thought I forgot. And before the season ends I have used what I knew and have learned a new skill or two. Developing and maintaining a set of skills doesn't mean that everything will always turn out okay. But it's best to develop skills. That improves the likelihood of a safe riding season. Gotta keep the confidence level up ya know.

I think that walking with Christ is something like that. Each morning I get up and it's like a new season beginning. Do I remember who Christ is and who I am in Him? Have I reflected on all the lessons He has taught me or am I like a baby just beginning to walk? That really depends on the day. (I am incredibly human)

There are two Scriptures that come to my mind in thinking about these things. The first one is from the letter to the Hebrews - 5:11-14

*<sup>11</sup>About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup>for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

I sometimes grow very dull to hearing what the Spirit is saying. And there are occasions when I feel as though I need to be taught again the basic principles of God's Word. I experience times with God which are very similar to my spring-time ritual with the motorcycle.

This may be your experience as well. We can grow dull and lose any discernment we have gained. And what Christian doesn't want to be a wise and gentle follower of Jesus? I sure do.

The second Scripture I was thinking about is found in the 1st letter Paul wrote to the Thessalonians - 5:23-24

*<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

This reminds me that it is the Holy Spirit who is at work in me. That began the moment I placed my trust in Christ for the salvation of my soul. Now, that was a few



years ago, but God's Spirit entered into me and is still working in me today. His Spirit is much freer to work in and through me when I obey what I've been commanded to do.

Paul's words speaking of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit reminds me of the work of the motorcycle: good tires, good battery, good lights, good brakes, engine in tune. If I take care of these things, that improves my chances of having a safe and sound riding season. Same way, if I do my part in following the Holy Spirit's commands, I improve my level of success in having a healthy and productive life with Christ. We are to co-labor together with Him. And we are to co-labor together with each other. That's like riding my motorcycle: my skills co-laboring together with the motorcycle's fitness for the road.

Keep (find) your balance.

Hopefully this will be a good riding season and good season in Christ.

Your Friend in Christ:

*Pastor Vern*

## *Let's Go To The Movies!*

Do you enjoy a good movie? Like to enjoy it with a friend? On Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> the movie "War Room" will be shown at the home of Dave Ball. We will begin with dessert at 6:30 pm and the movie will start at 7:00pm. Popcorn will be available to all. Why not make an evening of it and enjoy a nite out! The Reviews are good! Ask someone who has seen it.

### Mission News- April 20, 2016

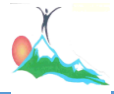
Mike Harris Jr. is still stateside and will update us soon about his status for returning to China.

Carlos Benitez with Wycliffe Bible Translators reports that it is the hot season now in SE Asia, but they have experience with warm climates so are adjusting well. Their son, AJ, at Liberty University is doing well with enough credits his sophomore year to be a junior already. He will be a Youth Leader this summer with Child Evangelism in Hawaii. Their daughter Rachelle is a class officer as well as plays volleyball, basketball, soccer and runs x-country. She will be on a month long mission trip this summer in Chiang Mai and able to use her skills and Asian language to help many others. Carlos will be teaching a class called Linguistic Principles of Translation at Payup University and Caryn has a much bigger role now in Asia training and mentoring future translators. She will be teaching a class called Intro to Phonology this summer. Carlos says he is taking a back seat to Caryn at this point as she is a sought after teacher and mentor at Payup University .

The Cortland Bible Camp after school program ended Tuesday , April 19<sup>th</sup> with a large enthusiastic gathering at the Parish House. Dan and Jeanette Rhoda do a wonderful job with our local Elementary children and it seems to be growing more every year. Thank you to them and all our congregational helpers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Whalen



### **Christian Education**

Happy Spring! As you may remember for the last few years the PK-6 th grade Sunday School has been participating in the Operation Christmas Child and sending shoe boxes. We recently found out some of our shoe boxes went to Ghana and some to a hard to reach area. Thank you Sauters! We have also decided to participate in "The Greatest Journey" Discipleship program, which is a 12- lesson Scripture-based curriculum offered through local churches to children who receive Operation Christmas Child gift boxes. It is offered in the children's native language as a follow up to shoe box distributions. We had 7 kids, including Jon Brown with Mike and Holly Harris, Linda Springer, Ed and Kris Sauter and Lisa Benedict attend the Red Line conference on Friday and Saturday, April 8th and 9th. The conference was enjoyed by all! Sunday, April 23rd, Dan and Jeannette Rhoda from Cortland Bible Camp came to church and shared about their many programs offered at the camp. Camp season, will be here soon, if you know of any children that would like to attend, please contact the Christian Ed committee.

In His Service,

Maurine

### **M & M's**

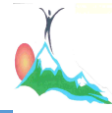
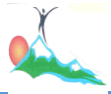
M&M's will be meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. We will continue the study of Heaven by Chip Ingram. Everyone seems to enjoy the study and you are welcome to join us! Wednesday morning at 10:00 am at the home of Joan Ball.

### **Birthdays & \*Anniversaries for May**

May 1~~Kathy Wood  
May 7~~Jim Laris  
\*May 8~John & Sue Young  
May 8~~Mother's Day  
May 9~~Amber Gast  
May 9~~Fran Selover  
\*May 9~Jim & Rosalie Laris  
May 11~~Debbie Foster  
May 16~~Harold Wood  
May 18~~Roxanne Groves  
May 18~~Chrissy Ladd  
May 18~~Colleen Ladd  
May 18~~Austin Baker  
\*May 24~Rick & Betsy Chiesa  
\*May 25~ Andy & Carol Clendenning  
May 25~~Jane Paddock  
\*May 28~Mike & Janet Furlough  
May 28~~Calvin Wood  
May 31~~Glenice Burdick  
May 31~~Bonnie Young



*Sunday, May 8th*



*~~~ Attention Ladies~~~*



The annual Ladies Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 7th at 9:00am at the Parish House. A special breakfast will be served by the Men's Group which is truly a treat! Besides a fabulous breakfast there will be music, readings and remembrances and plenty of laughter. Everyone is asked to bring one item to be donated to the Food Pantry. If you haven't signed up but would like to join us, please let Nancy or Bonnie know! We look forward to seeing you there!!

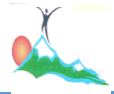
*The Lord is my light  
and my salvation:~  
Whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength  
of my life~  
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*Psalm 27-1*

**Calendar of Events for May**

- May 1~9:30 SS—Adults @Ball's  
Young Adults @ Springer's  
Kids @ Parish House  
11:00am Worship Service~Communion
- May 2<sup>nd</sup>~ 6:30pm Admin Bd Mtg @ PH
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>~7:00am Prayer in Pastor Vern's office
- May 4<sup>th</sup>~6:30pm Community Prayer @ PH
- May 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Youth Grp @ PH
- May 7<sup>th</sup>~9:00am Ladies Breakfast @ PH
- May 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30am SS~Adults @ Ball's  
Young Adults @ Springer's  
Kids @PH  
11 am Worship Service@ Church
- May 10~ 7:am Prayer in Pastor Vern's office
- May 11~ 6:30pm Community Prayer Mtg @ PH
- May 13<sup>th</sup>~ 6:30 pm Youth Grp @ PH  
6:30pm~movie "War Roo" @Ball's
- May 15<sup>th</sup>~9:30am SS~Adults @Ball's  
Young Adults @ Springer's  
Kids @ PH  
11:00 am Worship Service @ Church
- May 17<sup>th</sup>~7:00am Prayer in Pastor Vern's office
- May 18<sup>th</sup>~Community Prayer @PH
- May 20<sup>th</sup>~ 6:30pm Youth Grp @ PH
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>~ 9:30am SS~Adults @Ball's  
Young Adults @ Springer's  
Kids @ Parish House  
11:00am Worship Service @ church
- May 24~ 7:00am Prayer in Pastor Vern's office
- May 25<sup>th</sup>~6:30pm Community Prayer @ PH
- May 27<sup>th</sup>~6:30pm Youth Grp @ PH
- May 28<sup>th</sup>~ 8:00am~Men's Grp @ PH
- May 29<sup>th</sup>~ 9:30am~ SS~Adults @ Ball's  
Young Adults @ Springer's  
Kids @ PH  
11:00am Worship Service @ Church
- May 30<sup>th</sup>~Memorial Day





**Youth Group News**

On Friday, April 8th the Youth Group traveled to Watertown to attend the RedLine Conference. This year's conference was called Aftershock. We all experience earthquakes in our life's. (bullying, divorce, abuse, sickness, addiction). With every earthquake comes the aftershock, which could be more powerful than the initial earthquake. What direction will you turn when your earthquake hits and the aftershocks start. Will you let the aftershock of your earthquake take you in a direction away from God and developing a relationship with Him? Will you allow it to keep you from achieving your goals and dreams? Will you bravely turn in the direction of God and learn how He is calling you.

It was another great conference with speakers sharing God's awesome word that we can carry with us and apply to our daily life's along with amazing worship.

God Bless,  
Mike & Holly Harris



**Food for Thought From Pastor Vern**

A chart that I'd like to present which distinguishes the difference between *Justification* and *Sanctification*. Compare 1 with 1 and 2 with 2 and all the way through the list. See if it makes sense. Also, see how that plays out in our own life.

**Justification:**

- 1.What Christ does *for* us
- 2.Delivers from the *guilt and penalty* of sin
- 3.A judicial act in the *mind* of God
- 4.*Forgiveness* of sins
- 5.*Imputed* righteousness
- 6.Change of *status*
- 7.Restores us to the *favor* of God
- 8.Deals with *outward* actions-what I've done

**Sanctification:**

- 1.What Christ does *in* us
- 2.Delivers from the *power* of sin
- 3.An inward change in the *heart* of the believer
- 4.*Cleansing* of sin
- 5.*Imparted* righteousness
- 6.Change of *nature*
- 7.Restores us to the *image* of God
- 8.Deals with *inward* nature-who I am.

