



## The United Church of DeRuyter Newsletter~~June 2016



### Pastor's Message

We had lots of dirt hauled in last summer to fill in some trenches in our lawn. Those trenches were from the wheels of a cement truck backing across our lawn to pour a new cement pad. It was good dirt with a minimum of rocks. The load of dirt was about 1/3 of a load more than we needed for the trenches. So the excess went into our garden plot.

Good soil. Loose soil. Lots of soil. We are readying ourselves now to plant seeds and little plants: onions, tomatoes, squash, lettuce, spinach and such. All the things that between us and our neighbors, we will eat. Our responsibility is to plant - water - and fertilize. Creation's responsibility is to water - sunshine - release nutrients that are in the soil to the plants.

I heard a preacher say one time, "A preacher who doesn't get his fingers into the dirt and plant seeds, isn't fit to preach" (my paraphrase). That may be an extreme statement, but I understand what he's saying. There are so many illustrations that are given in God's Word that draw upon agricultural terms and understanding: seeds, watering, fruitfulness, growing, soil, bloom & blossom, etc. etc.

The Kingdom of God (or the Kingdom of Heaven) is like *this*. The Kingdom of Heaven is like *that*. What is the Kingdom of Heaven like? The best way to describe the Kingdom of Heaven is to describe it in terms we are all familiar with. Most of us (at least in our part of the world) understand what it means to grow things and to plant things and to mow our lawns and to plant our fields or gardens.

Here is what I get from the many illustrations given us in God's Word that describe what God and His Kingdom are like. First, I get that the Kingdom of God starts right here and right now. It's not something that waits till you arrive in heaven. Today and Now is the time to receive the good seeds which Jesus is planting. Second, I get that God's Kingdom is about growth and bearing fruit.

The Kingdom of God is to be productive and that means beneficial for others as well as for ourselves.

Third, I understand that God's Kingdom is God's rule. His Kingdom is run by a certain set of instructions that can't and won't be broken. You may try to go against those rules and you may even convince yourself that your way of doing things is better. But the hard and fast rules of God are going to prevail...always & ever.

Because of God's infallible and sovereign nature, his rules are infallible and sovereign as well. No matter how much it seems or feels like things are going in a different way than is God's way, it doesn't change the hard and fast rule of God.

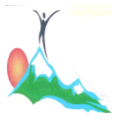
Because of the truth of all that is in God's nature and is the rule of His Kingdom and because it begins here and it begins now, I understand more than ever what Jesus meant when He said, "***Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has Drawn Near***" (Matt. 4:17)

Do you know who else said those exact same words? John the Baptist. (Matt. 3:2) He was the one who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. And just what do you think is the assignment for the people of God in these days? It is to prepare the way for the second coming of the Lord.

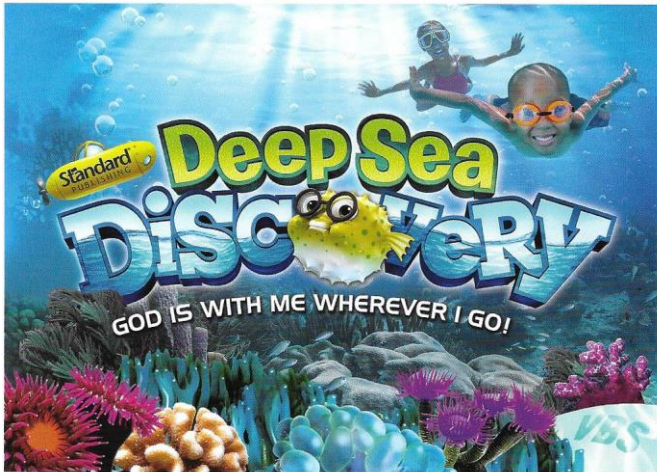
This is a word not just for others. No, it is a word for all of us "***Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has drawn near***". Or as stated in another way "***Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.***" Is your mind being renewed by the Word of God (the Bible)? Our thinking needs to be changed by what God says. Our actions need to be different as our mind is changed. Therefore that means we are repenting. I pray that it is true for you...and for me.

Your friend in Christ,

*Pastor Vern*



*Vacation Bible School*



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
2016**

**June 26 - June 30**

**5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Truxton Academy and Community Center  
fka Hartnett School**

**Pre-Register with:  
Jeannette Rhoda 607-863-4225 or  
[jeannetterhoda@gmail.com](mailto:jeannetterhoda@gmail.com)**

**Mission: Water Step  
Collection of wearable old shoes**

Attention:

Pastor Vern & Roxanne will be gone to Lake George (Americade – motorcycle rally) June 6 – June 9. So, pray that we will ‘ride safe’. Thanks!

**Calendar of Events**

June 1<sup>st</sup>—6:30pm Community Prayer Mtg .  
@PH-- Come as often as you can and join with others praying for our nation,,the world,,our community and our family.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>~7 pm @ PH—Evangelism class “The Way of the Master”

June 3<sup>rd</sup>~6:30 pm @ PH Youth Group

June 5<sup>th</sup> 930 SS Adults @ Ball’s  
Young Adults @ L.Springer’s  
Kids @ PH

11 am Worship Service @ Church  
**Children’s Day**

June 6<sup>th</sup> ~6:30 pm Adm Bd Mtg.

June 8<sup>th</sup>~6:30 pm Community Prayer Mtg @

June 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Youth Group @ PH

June 11<sup>th</sup> 8 am Men’s Group @ PH. Join us for a great time of fellowship/breakfast/and growing together in Christ.

June 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Summer Hours begins--  
Worship Service @ 10am

**We are starting with a Hymn Sing and Communion. The Lincklaen Church is joining us for a joint service.**

June 14<sup>th</sup>~ 7 am Prayer in Pastor Vern’s office

June 15<sup>th</sup>~6:30 pm Community Prayer mtg

June 16<sup>th</sup> 7 pm “The Way of the Master”.

June 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Youth Group @ PH

June 19<sup>th</sup> ~Father’s Day.~~Honoring Fathers  
Worship Service 10am

June 21<sup>st</sup>~ Prayer in Pastor Vern’s office

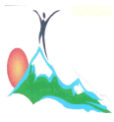
June 22<sup>nd</sup>~6:30pm Community Prayer Mtg.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>~7pm “The Way of the Master”.@PH

June 24<sup>th</sup>~ 6:30pm Youth Group @ PH

June 25<sup>th</sup>~8am Men’s Group @ PH

(continued)



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## Calendar of Events (cont)

June 26th~ Graduation Sunday.9:50 gathering in parking lot with St Lawrence Church to bless this years high school graduates.

June 28<sup>th</sup>~ 7am Prayer in Pastor Vern's office.

June 29<sup>th</sup>~6:30 pm Community Prayer Mtg

June 30<sup>th</sup>~ "The Way of the Master".@ PH

## Bereavement Committee

I wish to thank everyone who makes our dinners possible by the food you provide and the help serving it. Margaret Wiltsey has taken over calling for food, which I greatly appreciate! Jean Whalen is now in charge of overseeing the dinners. Denise Cuddeback is still in charge of setting up the table service. I appreciate all of them and all who step in to help. Right now I am very busy with our medical problems and am unable to help as much as in the past. This happens to all of us and when you get a call for food and are unable to help, we understand.

Thanks for making these dinners possible.

Sincerely, Carol Clendenning



## Birthdays & Anniversaries ~June

June 1~~John Young

June 2~~Luke Sautter

June 4~~Harry Ludke

\*June5~Bobby & Denise Cuddeback

\*June9~Sam & Shirley Fuller

June 12~Laura Centolella

June 12~Fred & Rosemary Lawrence

June 13~Jamie Graham

\*June 14~Steve & Jean Whalen

June 16~Martha Genereux

June 17~Denise Cuddeback

\*June 19~Dave & Joan Ball

June 25~Teri Burdick

June 27~Dave Ball

June 28~Ginny Moore

June 28~RJ Brown

June 30~ Sue Young

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - JUNE 2016

Please join us Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am for our Children's Program at Church. Refreshments to follow especially made by the Adult Sunday School.

Also another reminder if any child is interested in attending Cortland Bible Camp please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support.

In His Service

Maurine



## The United Church of DeRuyter Newsletter~June 2016



### Mission News~May 28,2016

Mike Harris Jr. came to our Church Board of Director's meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and announced his decision to us that he would not be returning to China as he had originally planned due to the lack of sufficient funds. He will be pursuing employment here in the states and hopefully engaged in a youth ministry program to continue his mission work. Because he did not have any outstanding bills in China, the Mission Committee voted after much discussion to discontinue sending his monthly support of \$100 to Elim Ministries, who will send him his remaining funds for three months before canceling his account. The Committee felt that our responsibility was to protect the monies entrusted to us by the congregation, thus our decision, however, individuals still wishing to help Mike through this three month transition period may of course support him further if they wish. We pray God will lead this fine young man to the job and mission that is the right path for him and ask that we all keep him in our prayers.

Report from Rick and Betsy Chiesa - "Rick's travels to South Africa and Mozambique went smoothly and were effective. He also stayed healthy through over 25,000 miles of travel, including 13 flights and several long road trips, in 13 days. Betsy had asked for prayer for an unsolved software issue, and the solution was discovered just two days after the email was sent! Theresa interviewed and was accepted into a full-time job at Wycliffe in the Receiving Department. She started mi-March and is settling in nicely. It's a good fit for her skills and is meeting her financial needs. Rick and Betsy enjoy having her in the area again." They were also thrilled to celebrate granddaughter, Isabel's, first birthday. Please continue to keep the Chiasas in your prayers.

Report from Carlos and Caryn Benitez- Carlos is now teaching his class at Payap University for the summer, and Caryn is teaching an introductory linguistics course called Phonology. (Phonology is the study of how the various sounds in a language actually work together.) Caryn "traveled to Bangkok to meet with colleagues actively working in Scripture Engagement- encouraging people to interact with and respond to translated Scriptures. She is surrounded by people of many languages and nations, getting a glimpse of what God is doing around the world." Earlier Carlos had told us that Rachele's GIS School site had lost a 10 year court battle over property and they would have to move to a new location. God is always way ahead of us as they realized anew. Due to a series of events and the right people in the right places, her GIS School will be combining with Rangsit University's Satit Bilingual School until their new construction is complete, offering new opportunities for witness on a daily basis. God is good all the time! Both Rachele and son, AJ, will be working in separate mission fields this summer. Please continue to keep all the Benitez family in your prayers.

The Annual Memorial Day Mission Hot Dog and Bake Sale will be held, Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in front of the Parish House during and after the Parade. Hope to see you all there.

Please join us Sunday, June 5th at 11am for our Children's Program at Church. Refreshments to follow specially made by the Adult Sunday School.

Happy  
*Father's*  
Day