



## Pastor's Message for May

It was at Church one Sunday morning, and I mentioned **my latest revelation from God. It had to do with Prayer.** I believe that prayer is an opportunity for God to show us what His vision is. I came to this realization one night when I had closed my eyes and was heading toward sleep. I usually begin this process of heading toward sleep by praying about some of my concerns for the day. I usually pray for my family, church or community members and any known struggles or issues that they may be facing.

So, what do I mean by saying that "prayer is an opportunity for God to show us what His vision is". For me, it goes like this. I may pray in a certain way for one of my family members or a church member or a member of the community about a situation they may be facing. While I'm praying for them about this particular situation I discover that I am open and receptive. Primarily I'm open and receptive because I may have some insight on how they might resolve their dilemma. But I never have all the factors in my knowledge to get it right on what they could or should do differently than they already are doing. In other words, I'm not God.

That fact alone, is why I pray and why I pray to God. He knows the beginning to the end. He knows fully the heart and mind of every individual on the planet and He certainly knows the people that I am praying for and all the details of circumstances surrounding them and their dilemma.

So, when I pray to God for someone and I realize I don't have all the details but God does, then I'm open to receiving some insight from God who is all knowing. And sometimes God will give me a fresh picture of the situation I'm praying about. In fact, sometimes it is such a radical shift from what I had pictured that it startles me. But His vision always makes me smile.

I smile because He is showing me that He is God and I am not. That right there is enough to make me smile. I love being put in my place by God.

Do any of you remember reading about the time when Jesus made a selection from his early followers and disciples? He was looking to send some of them out. He was looking to make some of them 'Apostles' (Apostle means 'sent out ones'). (Luke 6:12,13)

*<sup>12</sup>In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup>And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:*

I strongly suspect that Jesus, in the fullness of his humanity, knew certain qualities and characteristics and issues of his disciples. But, He didn't have the full picture of them that he needed in order to move them from the category of disciple to the category of apostle. Apostles had a higher calling and I don't think that Jesus at that time had the necessary insight and perspective to determine by himself who were the twelve. If he did, then why would he have spent the entire night in prayer to his father in Heaven?

I believe that Jesus was shown during his time of prayer a different vision of some of those whom he selected the next morning as apostles. Perhaps Jesus saw Peter as too braggadocios, but God the father saw him with the makings of a key leader in the Church. Or maybe Jesus saw Thomas as way too doubtful. But God our Father showed Jesus that those qualities of doubt could serve well in times when there was a need to re-think and reconsider a particular situation. A man who once was a doubter, could become a man who trusted fully.

So will you consider joining me in an exercise? When you are praying about certain people and certain situations of loved ones and church and community members, will you open yourself to see how God our Father might see those individuals?



## United Church of DeRuyter Newsletter~ May 2017



Pay close attention to the Holy Spirit and how your vision might be altered during this process.

I'm trying to put a smile on your face and so is God. He wants you to know more than anything that He is God and you are not. That is definitely worth smiling about.

Your Friend in Christ                      **Pastor Vern**

### Mission Report April 2017

Big news finally for Pastor Bob Reed and his wife Jeannetta! Three years ago they were ready to move to Florida to be nearer to their daughter and her family when their house sale fell through at the last possible moment! These last three years have been frustrating for them as they continually tried to resell their Missouri home, but trusting in the Lord as many friends kept encouraging them to do finally led to the sale of their home for the full price. They closed on their Ozark home April 19<sup>th</sup> and closed on their new home in Florida April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers as they establish new areas of ministry and music in their new Florida home only three minutes from their daughter!

We are expecting a visit the weekend of June 17-18<sup>th</sup> here in DeRuyter with Carlos, Caryn and their daughter Rachelle Benitez as they come back to the states for a visit from Southeast Asia. We look forward to hearing all about their ministry there with Wycliffe and updates on their family life and challenges.

Please keep Rick and Betsy Chiesa in your prayers. Rick has been traveling many times back and forth to Africa and is responsible for much in his Wycliffe position. Betsy was here in CNY recently visiting her elderly mother who has been ill. She met with Vern on that trip and shared with him that Wycliffe is going through many changes that affect both their jobs. They really need our prayers as they transition through all these changes and emotional times with elderly parents.

Pastor Vern Groves~~315-852-9841 e-mail:vgroves@twcny.rr.com~website:unitedchurchofderuyter.org

Our DeRuyter Pantry Mission has been serving approximately 50-60 families a month and sometimes more. We continually see new area clients in need of our services every month. Thank you for the huge response to our laundry soap challenge. We have received over 100 bottles of our 200 challenge so far. It is humbling to be able to reach out to others in this way.

Missions will again sponsor our Annual Memorial Day Hot Dog Sale/WF Bake Sale on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by for a drink and quick snack during and after the parade. Profits from this event go directly to one of our church Missions.

### Calendar of Events:

Each Tues. @ 7 am - Prayer in Pastor Vern's office.  
Each Wed. @ 6:30 pm - Prayer meeting @ PH

May 5 Thurs. @ 7 is National Day of Prayer @ the Church - **PLEASE JOIN US!**

May 11 Thurs @ 7 pm is Spiritual Bd. @ PH  
May 13 Sat @ 9 am Lady's Breakfast served by the Men's Group

May 13 Sat. 7 am - noon - Ruritan Scrap Metal Drive @ Fairgrounds

May 15 - 7 pm - Admin. Bd. meets  
May 27 - Sat. 8am - 10 Men's Group

May 29 - Memorial Day

May 30 Tues. 3 - 5:30 or ? After School Program  
end of year party - @ PH

### **Sunday School Classes @ 9:30 am each Sunday**

PH - kids Sunday School

Dave & Joan Ball's - Adult Sunday School

Linda Springer - Teen & Young Adult SS

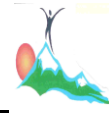
### **Sunday Worship @ 11 am:**

May 7 - Communion Served

May 14 - Mother's Day

May 21

May 28 Memorial Day Weekend



### Administrative Board

*The Official Board met on April 3rd with ten members present.*

1. *Financial Secretary: We are a little ahead on pledges and plate for the month, compared to last year. \$6187, including missions, was received.*

*Treasurer: Expenses totaled \$7185.69. Six round tables have been ordered, at \$110 per table, to be paid for from Circle of Grace. Also, a new coffeepot, three burner, is in place, the old one having to be replaced. This was paid for by Building and Maintenance.*

*Missions: \$110 was paid out to the Benitez's this month. There is \$6749.73 remaining in the missions account. On June 18th, Carlos and Karen Benitez will visit our church.*

*Pastor's Report: Vern made 17 home/hospital visits, did one funeral, met with the Men's Group, attended prayer meetings, after school program, made calls for the Red Cross blood drive, helped at the Food Pantry, and has started a new blog. ([pastorvernmusings@blogspot.com](mailto:pastorvernmusings@blogspot.com))*

**Old Business:** We will be serving pork barbecue sandwiches and hot dogs in front of the Parish House on Memorial Day.

**New Business:** The annual Ladies Breakfast will take place on May 13th at the Parish House. Posters will be placed around the village.

National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer  
May 4th at 7 pm  
at the Church



### God's Will

- Up:** It is no longer you working for God, but God working for you. Hebrews 8:7-8
- In:** I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Hebrews 8:10
- Out:** The Holy Spirit will teach. Just speak the Love of Jesus. Hebrews 8:11





**Birthdays & Anniversaries~May**

**Calling All Ladies!!**

....The sixth annual Ladies Breakfast at the Parish House will be held on Saturday, May 13th at 9 a.m. Come and "TIE ONE ON" with us. (Aprons, of course). We are looking forward to a morning filled with speakers, music, food and lots of fun. Admission is one item for the Food Pantry. Ladies, please wear an apron if you have one. Come and bring a friend. For reservations, please call Bonnie Z. Or Nancy P. We need to get an idea of how many will attend.

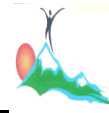
**Church Library**

Don't forget we have a good supply of reading material at your disposal and it is all for free. All you need to do is select the book of your choice. Sign it out, take it home and enjoy! When you have finished reading it, return it and cross your name off the list. For more information, check with Joan Ball.



- May 1~~Kathy Wood
- May 7~~Jim Laris
- \*May 8~John & Sue Young
- May 9~~Amber Gast
- May 9~~Fran Selover
- \*May 9~Jim & Rosalie Laris
- May 11~Debbie Foster
- May 10~Harold Wood
- May 18~Roxanne Groves
- May 18~Colleen Ladd
- May 18~Chrissy 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

**Congratulations!!**



Christian Education—May 2017

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. This year the hunt was at the Church with the eggs hidden around in the grass. What a great outreach for our church. After the kids found the eggs they went in to the church to do a craft symbolizing Easter and the Easter candy. The craft was a huge success. 31 kids plus their parents, grandparents and friends attended.

Thank you to Linda and all the people that helped to make this Easter Egg Hunt a big success.

We want to thank the congregation for their donation of candy. It is greatly appreciated. You help us to make the hunt possible.

We are now preparing for Children's Sunday in the beginning of June.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sunday School program.

In His Service,

Maurine

Pennies for the Pantry

Do you know those little "copper" coins that seem to accumulate in your purse or pocket?

Well, we have a way to put them to good use. In the back of the church you will find a box that you can put your pennies in, either in rolls or loose, and they will go to the Food Pantry! Thank you, as always, for your support.

M & M's

**M & M's Bible study group  
will be meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
and May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the  
home of Joan Ball. Our  
lesson for May 3<sup>rd</sup> will cover  
chapter 5 of Keeping  
Company With God.  
All ladies are welcome!!**

