

### *Pastor's Message*

Recently I've been dealing with a couple skunks in our back yard. They love to dig for grubs in the dirt and that makes for quite a mess in our yard. We possess a variety of have-a-heart traps for different sized varmints. Skunks, squirrels, woodchucks have all fallen prey to the peanut butter on the platform.

The most recent skunk I caught and took to the far-reaches of the country has not returned. Skunks aren't like homing pigeons. At least the ones I catch aren't. But we still have a brother or cousin of the first relocated skunk and he isn't falling prey to my peanut butter in the trap trick. So, for now, I am a bit stymied.

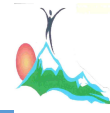
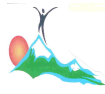
This may be a poor comparison but I have been praying and thinking, and so have so many others, about how to take the gospel to the next generations. How can a group of oldsters minister to the generations behind us? Generations X, Y, Z are all born and raised on I-phones, I-pads, Smart Phones, and the like. And us oldsters are still climbing the steep hill and learning about one or the other of all these screen devices. But the Gen X, Y, Z all have it down and are moving onto greener pastures. This technology has been the big reason that the generation gap has widened so far, in my opinion. And I appreciate much of the advances in technology. It is creating new problems, however. But when hasn't there been problems?

I have been listening to webinars and such on the next generations coming up and how they might hear the gospel message. One thing is for sure, you and I have to be authentic. We can't try and be cool or hip. What we have to be is real. We have to live our own lives and we have to let the gospel deal with us personally. The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit is always an inside job. Meaning, He works inside of you and I and He deals with our insides, our areas of private thoughts and feelings. And we cooperate or NOT with Him... at least some of the time we cooperate – and sometimes NOT.

I would like to think that God has His way with us ALL of the time. But I know better than that. How do I know that? Because I've lived with myself for a long time and am a part time obedient disciple of Jesus.

One ministry that I have become very excited about recently is Summit Ministries out of Manitou Springs, CO. Jeff Myers is the president and I am presently reading a book of his titled "Understanding The Culture". It is one of a 3 book series. It addresses the idea of how to live out a Christian worldview in today's culture. I don't know about you, but I need to better understand how to do just that.

I am gleaning insights but am far from coming up with a strategy to reach out and bring the gospel to those folks behind us in age. I pray about that and trust that God will show the way. I believe that the gospel is beyond culture and can penetrate the heart of any and all who are dwelling on planet earth and in



any age. But our church is not presently seeing the fruit of that.

So, let me go back to my initial thoughts of skunks in a trap. I've caught one, but I'm looking for a strategy to catch the second one. And, in the same way, I'm looking for ways to meaningfully share the gospel with the younger generations. I am in the middle of it, so it feels like a bit of a struggle. But, I am convinced, if God's people will pray and immerse themselves in God's Word that He will open opportunities and grant the wisdom which is needed for the situation.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share this with you.

In Christ's Friendship Pastor Vern

### *Administrative Board*

The Administrative Board met April 2 and we welcomed back our chairperson, Nancy Parkhurst, who opened with prayer. The Financial Secretary reported that \$4400 was collected in March. The treasurer reported expenses of \$7482 for the month. It was also reported that the dividends have gone down on the Edward Jones account, (1542.28). The balance in the checking account is \$4801. Tom Springer has priced the cost of updating the bathroom in the church. It will cost about \$250 to install a cabinet and sink and to purchase a new faucet. The room will be painted after the renovation is done. Nancy also reminded us that the faucet in the parish House needs work as well. There will be a spring cleanup at the church on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. The back wall of the church

where the ramp is has no insulation. We should have a list of things that need doing by then and work will progress. Vern still has the keyboard to the organ in his garage. Pastoral Report: The Wednesday night prayer meetings will be held at the home of Ginny Moore from now on. Vern reported that he will be on vacation for four days, June 4-7 and also for five days June 6-11. There will be a Blessing of the Bikes (motorcycles) on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Quincey Square parking lot. Vern also talked with us about the 69 to 70 million members of 'Generation Z'; the younger generation, covering the years between 1999 and 2018. There are many needs by these folks as far as church goes. Many are disillusioned. Many disagree with the church's stand on evolution, feeling that the church rejects the scientific evidence. They want to be heard/accepted, but they also need to be SEEN in order for meaningful dialogue to occur.

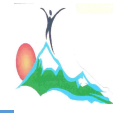
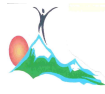
The Women's Fellowship will be doing the Ruritan Dinner on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr and Mrs. Terry Major will be present on April 8<sup>th</sup> to report on Haiti. It has been eight years since Linda, Andy, Vern and Terry visited Haiti. The Major's will also attend our Sunday School classes that day. We will be honoring Carol and Andy Clendenning for their many years of selfless service to our church. We are so thankful for all they do. Vern closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Ziegler, Clerk

### *Christian Education*

The PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade have been learning how kids their age have played important roles in the Bible. They learned about the story of the young boy who offered his lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish and it was enough to feed the multitudes. This story is in all four gospels so we know that we must



study and learn it. Just like the little boy, God wants us to bring to him what we have. Even if we think it is not enough. With God it isn't the amount of the gift, but rather it is whose hands the gift is given to. It is God who is Enough!

*Sunday School Program*

June 2<sup>nd</sup> come and see the Sunday School classes in action with the end of the year program at the morning church service.

*Vacation Bible School News*

Come join in the planning of the VBS program on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. at the Cuyler church. Thought about helping this year? Then set the date for July 16-20 and become a volunteer.



*National Day of Prayer*

Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup> is National Day of Prayer. The theme this year is UNITY.

Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

A heart of love for the Father and for one another will bring unity of worshipers.



*Ladies Tea*

Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the Parish House. Ladies Tea and Fashion Show and a light luncheon will be served.

Reservations: Bonnie @ 852-9671 or Nancy @ 852-6198

Come and bring a friend

Admission: an item for the Food Pantry

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

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 16~Susan Katherine Benedict

May 16~~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~Mary P Fox

\*May 25~~Andy & Carol Clendenning

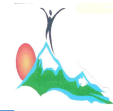
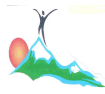
May 25~~Jane Paddock

\*May 28~~Mike & Janet Furlough

May 28~~Calvin Wood

May 31~~Glenice C. Burdick

May 31~~Bonnie Young



Reading Corner



Winter is finally over! Now is the time for summer reading and you ask what is that? Let me tell you summer reading is light and funny and easy to read in between squeezing all the things we need to do before winter is upon us again. Yes, Christians can have joy and laughter in their life. Interested? Then check out a book in the Church's library.

Thank you

Whether it is caring for a relative, helping a neighbor, or volunteering your time, be encouraged as you do the work God has called you to do. Your labor can be a powerful testimony of faith, hope and love. Last month we honored Carol and Andy Clendenning who have shown us the love of Christ thru their ministry. We appreciate all they have done and will do. Thank you Carol and Andy.



The promise is given that we are blessed so that we can become a blessing to everyone around us. (Genesis 22:17-18)). And we can start by simply opening the front door!

Calendar of Events

**Each Sun.** @ 9:30 am Sunday School Classes  
@11 am Worship Service

**Each Tues.** @ 8:30 am– Prayer in Pastor Vern's office

**Each Wed.** @ 6:30pm-Prayer @ home of Ginny Moore

**1st & 3rd Wed. of month** - M&M's

**2nd & 4th Sat. of month**

12th - Men's group meets @ 8 am. @ Lynn's Diner  
26th - Men's group meets @ 8 am. @ Parish House

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**May 3rd**-12 noon (National Day of Prayer) in Cazenovia in Memorial Park (Albany St. & Rt. 20)

**May 3rd**-7pm Spiritual Bd meets

**May 5th**—7am-12noon-Scrap Metal Drive & Trash Day for all DeRuyter School District residence @ Town Barn

**May 6th**—2PM VBS meeting at Cuyler Church

**May 7th**-- 7pm Admin Bd meeting @ PH

**May 12th**—1PM Ladies Tea at Parish House

**May 13th**—Mother's Day

**May 20th**—11 am worship service will have a representative from Christian Motorcycle Association to share their vision

**May 20th**—1PM Blessing of the Bikes in parking lot of Quincy Square-Invite any and all bikers

**May 28th**—Memorial Day