



Pastor's Message

God has a vision for His church. It's not my vision nor is it your vision that matters. But it is how God envisions His church is to function, that's what matters.

The entire letter of Ephesians which the Apostle Paul wrote to Asia in the first century AD, is a revealing of what God envisions for His church everywhere. In each local setting in each community where the followers of Jesus Christ gather, this epistle instructs us how God wants us to function as His gathered people.

In the 4th chapter and the first 16 verses (Ephesians 4:1-16) we get a picture that we cannot and we must not avoid.

Vs. 1 Paul implores believers to live according to the calling they have received. And then he tells them how:

1. vs. 2 - with all humility of mind (Philippians 2:5-8) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

a. His obedience was to God.

2. with all gentleness

3. patiently put up with one another...in love

4. vs. 3 - diligently guard the unity of the Spirit in the uniting principle of peace

Why bother to do all of this (vs. 4, 5, 6) Because there is one body (church), one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God & Father of all. One! One! One! One! He desires us to be ONE.

Hear what He is NOT saying. He does not desire us to all be the same. I am as different from you as you are from each other and from me.

Vs. 7 & 8 – But Christ has apportioned His grace amongst His people. Each one has been given a gift from God.

Vs. 9,10 – tells us that Christ has descended to the lowest low. As well He has ascended to the highest high. He has covered all of existence and He is the final victor. In fact, Jesus Himself has defeated the final enemy, which is death. He claims all of the spoils because he is the victor over all creation of heaven and of earth.

And then in vs. 11-13 we're told about the church and what she is to be. The Church is to be God's witness to the world about Christ. And we're given instructions on how to do that. The Church has certain functions which she must carry out. Certain types of leaders have very clear and defined responsibilities. There are five specific leadership functions:

1. Apostles



2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors/Shepherds
5. Teachers

This is the five-fold ministry of the church. What do these leaders do? What are these functions? Well let's go thru them one by one.

- a. Apostles embody the fact that the church is to be sending out and establishing the gospel of Jesus Christ into areas that are not yet established with a credible witness of Jesus Christ.
- b. Prophets are concerned for the vertical and horizontal relationships. Vertical in order to give constant attention to God and guarding the covenant relationship God has with his people. Horizontal in order to give attention to our relationships with others and the world as part of our obligations to God: Holiness, Justice, and Righteousness.
- c. Evangelists do the task of getting the message out and getting a positive response from their audience. The evangelistic function is the church's inbuilt marketing dept.
- d. Pastors/Shepherds pay attention to their immediate environment, noticing details about people and the condition of the community.
- e. Teachers are largely concerned with helping people gain insight into how God wants them to see and experience their world.

As such, they will seek to bring theological truth and shape the consciousness of God's people to be consistent with that truth.

Now we recognize that everyone is not an Apostle or a Prophet or an Evangelist or a Shepherd or a Teacher. But these five functions are vital for the health and maturing of the Church, to grow more and more toward the likeness of Jesus. In fact vs. 12 says these leadership functions are necessary in order to equip the Christians for works of service, so that the Church may be built up.

And vs. 14, so that we will no longer be infants who are tossed around by the winds of the world and Satan's strategies to get the church sidetracked.

The fact is, each Christ follower is to learn and become self – feeding. Each one is to build themselves up in love. And each one is to do their work, according to the grace and the gifts which they have been entrusted with. It's a stewardship issue. Are you being a good steward of what God has entrusted to you?

Here's the deal. If the church is not functioning in the 5 areas which God has ordained for us to function, then the body will never grow into the mature body of Christ which God envisions us to be. It is God's Word which gives us the insight and the direction. And it is our responsibility to apply and implement that Word into our lives personally as well into the life of the Church as a whole.



This, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, is what God has for us. It behooves us to heed these words and encourage the leadership of the Church to move His Church in this direction. And may each one of us move in obedience to what God has called each one of us to do and to be.

(adapted from a message given August 19th @ the UCD. If you desire to hear this message, please go to www.unitedchurchofderuyter.org and check under Pastor's Page and Messages. This one is dated August 19, 2018)

In Christ's love and friendship, Pastor Vern

Administrative Board

The Administrative Board met on July 2nd with five members present. The Financial Secretary reported the July's General Fund amount of \$5850.10 and the treasurer reported expenses of \$5959.99. The hotdog/bake sale donations collected was \$241.90 that was donated to the DeRuyter Community Services. The pennies for pantry collected was \$2.36.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Vern participated in the Ruritan Auction. He visited various homes during the month. He also attended the Robin Mark's concert.

Old Business: Two faucets were installed at the Parish House. The new room at the church is on hold until the contractor recovers from surgery. In the meantime a sink and vanity will be installed at the church and the heating system in the new room will be moved until the work is completed and then will be reinstalled. The

Church still needs scraping and painting and is looking for someone to complete. There are loose shingles which need replacing on the Parish House steeple. The steps on the left side of the church will be completed to match the other side. The sidewalk that will be installed connecting our church to the Catholic Church will be taken care of soon by a few church members.

It was suggested to have the nominating committee have the slate of officers ready for the September newsletter so everyone will know who the candidates are before the meeting. The topic "Reality Check" will be added to the Annual Meeting agenda.

**Annual Meeting will be held on September 16, following the morning worship, and it will be a dish to pass.

Next meeting will be Thursday September 6 and the Spiritual Board meeting will be Monday September 10th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Ziegler, Clerk

September 16

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.



We're hoping that you read this story slowly or better yet, read it twice. Your Administration Board is praying that Everybody will be present for our Annual Meeting/Pass-a-meal, on September 16th right after our morning worship service.

Successful people and churches take responsibility for themselves. They don't rush making decisions, BUT they don't procrastinate either. They plan, prepare, communicate and then act.

We are counting on Everybody to be involved with our church family's affairs and successes. Annual meeting gives Anybody and Everybody an opportunity to hear our thoughts for the future, and all attending, time to ask questions and voice concerns. If we leave these opportunities to Somebody or Anybody, we all know that Nobody will get the praying, sharing and planning done.

See you on the 16th,

Your Church Family's Administration Board.

Summer of 1987

Source: Women's Fellowship Annual Report for 1987:

"Following the completion of the church and parsonage painting we served a meal to the Georgetown boys, and more recently helped fund money for their Christmas Bibles and party cookies. Submitted by Jean Whalen, Secretary

Calendar of Events

Each Sun @ 10am– Sunday Summer Service

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

Each Wed. @ 6:30 pm –Prayer @ Ginny Moore's home

2nd & 4th Sat. of month

Men's group meets @ 8 am. Lynn's Diner in Cuyler

Sept 2- Labor Day Service-10 am worship

Sept 3- Labor Day/State Fair ends

Sept 6- 7 PM Administrative Board Meeting

Sept 9 – 9:30 am Sunday School classes begin

Sept 9- 11 am Worship Service-New Time

Sept 10- 7 PM Spiritual Board Meeting

Sept 15-10 am Women's Fellowship meeting

Sept 16-1pm Annual Meeting preceded by meal to pass

Sept 18- TBA- Ruritan dinner

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept 6~ Dale & Margaret Wiltsey

Sept 8~Theresa Chiesa

Sept 8~Ann Ludke

Sept 10~John & Mary Fox

Sept 15~Sean Millett

Sept 21~Betsy Chiesa

Sept 23~Calvin & Kathy Wood



Annual Meeting September 16

Mark your calendars for the annual meeting following the morning worship service. Bring a dish to pass for lunch.

Note: Don't forget to write your annual report!

Sunday School News

Sunday School classes resume Sunday, September 9th at 9:30. PK – 6th grade at the Parish House and 7th – to 12th grade will also be held at the Parish House. Adult Sunday School classes will be held at the church in the nursery.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship meeting on Saturday September 15th at 10 AM at the Parish House

Food Pantry Challenge

The Food Pantry had challenged the DeRuyter community to donate 200 jugs of laundry detergent during August. Donations from the parade helped in exceeding the goal set.

Thank you to all!

Upcoming Events

After School Bible Club
Pork Harvest Dinner
Halloween Party

Be Happy

“The happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”

H. Jackson Brown Jr.