



Journey with us in 2019, destination greatness!



*Pastor's Message*

I'm sharing something from Harvey Mackay which I thought fit the New Year in a wonderful way. May each one of us look ahead so that we won't remain behind.

Please keep in your prayers your boards, Administrative and Spiritual, and your Pastor (that's me). This church is not run by one individual but by multiple leaders. And there is wisdom in that. "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." Proverbs 15:22

God's Blessing Pastor Vern

A farmer famed for his agricultural know-how once hired a neighbor's teenage son to help him do the spring plowing. The farmer believed in letting people do their work without undue supervision, so he placed the boy on the tractor and went over the hill to work on another field. Anxious to plow straight furrows, the inexperienced, teenager kept looking over his shoulder to check how he was doing.

Despite this precaution, he was dismayed to find that, by the time he reached the edge of the field, the row he was plowing was noticeably crooked. He tried and tried but he was unable to keep the rows straight.

When the farmer came back to see how the young man was doing, he instantly saw what was the problem. Taking the boy aside, the farmer told him in a calm voice, "You can't plow a straight row if you continually look back. You must keep your eyes focused straight ahead. And always remember where you've been."

So it is with a lot of important tasks in life – don't just look back, and focus on the future. Our eyes are in front of our head because it is more important to look ahead than to look back.

Learning from the past is perhaps the best way to prepare for the future. Always remember where you've been.

Baseball "philosopher" Yogi Berra offered a memorable observation about the nature of the future. Having witnessed the extraordinary progress of a rookie just breaking into the major leagues, Yogi remarked: "His future is ahead of him."

Mackay's Moral: The person who does not look ahead remains behind.

Harvey Mackay, Founder "The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement."

*Spiritual Board*

The Spiritual Board met December 10, 2018 with nine members present. Pastor Vern reported that we will have a baptism on January 13th for the Bennett children and the Men's Group meets every other Saturday alternately at Lynn's Diner and the Parish House.



Old & New Business-

1. Nancy P. reported that the church painting has been completed and it looks great! Payment for this was divided between Circle of Grace, Major Repairs, and the Memorial Fund.
2. A Reverse Advent program was introduced to collect one item each day of Advent in a box to be delivered to the Church on Christmas Eve for a blessing then delivered to the Pantry.
3. The Parish House leaking sink has been repaired and the Electrical System there will be evaluated.
4. Sunday, Dec. 23rd we will meet at the Parish House for a Christmas Breakfast in place of a Service that morning followed the next night by our traditional Christmas Eve 8PM Service. Plans for that service discussed.
5. We decided not to place an Ad in the Cortland Standard announcing our Christmas Eve Service as it is the same as usual and the cost seemed unnecessary.
6. Several Spiritual issues were discussed.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Whalen, Sec.

*Missions*

1. Nine Mission checks were sent out to complete our 2018 Mission Budget the first week of December totaling \$2500. Earlier in 2018 a total of \$1300 was dispersed which made a total of \$3,800. This total plus \$200 Pastor Vern has on hand for local situations makes up our \$4,000 budget. This number just reflects our Church Mission Budget and does not include weekly donations that congregational members may earmark for various missionaries or organizations.

2. We received a lovely Christmas newsletter from Pastor Bob & Jeannetta Reed in Orange Park, Florida where at 80+ years he is still ministering to inmates at the local prison and bringing his talented guitar playing and singing to a local Nursing Home!
3. The DeRuyter Pantry is excited to report that 84 Turkeys and dinner fixing baskets were distributed in November, and so far, 78 Christmas Ham Dinner baskets have been given out as of the date of this report. In addition, 16 large Reverse Advent Boxes filled with food, paper goods and toiletries were presented for blessing on Christmas Eve to be delivered to the Pantry. Thank you one and all for your generosity this Holiday season.
4. Our congregation also provided 16 beautifully wrapped Christmas Gifts for our School Mitten Tree donations blessing 16 local children with a better Christmas!!

Respectfully submitted, Jean Whalen, Sec.



**“Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers.” Kahlil Gibran**

*Birthdays*

- Jan 10~~Lois Damon
- Jan 15~~Barbara Lidell
- Jan 15~~ Michael Furlough
- Jan 16~~Elliott Millet
- Jan 16~~Ted Bolton
- Jan 21~~Isabella Travis
- Jan 21~~Brooke Wood
- Jan 21~~Scott Chiesa
- Jan 22~~Bruce Zeigler
- Jan 27~~Naomi MeKeel



Jan 28~~Lisa Springer Travis  
Jan 28~~Foster Cameron Wood  
Jan 29~~Rick Chiesa



**Let your New Year begin with Jesus**

***Women's Fellowship***

Come to the annual meeting January 19 at 10 AM. Be a part of a great community of women. Will be planning for 2019 calendar events and updating our phone directory. See you there.



Daily devotion is better than yearly resolutions.

***Calendar of Events***

**Each Sun** @ 9:30 Sunday School classes-young meet at Parish House and adults at the church

**Each Sun** @ 11am–Worship Service

**Each Tues.** @ 8:30 am– Prayer in Pastor Vern's office (all welcome to join)

**Each Wed.** @ 6:30 pm –Prayer @ Ginny Moore's home (all welcome to join)

**Sat Jan 12<sup>th</sup>**- Men's group meets @ 8 am. Lynn's Diner in Cuyler

**Sat Jan 26<sup>th</sup>**- Men's group meets @ 9 am. Parish House (bring a breakfast dish to pass)

**Watch for date to undecorated the Church**

**Jan 1**-New Year's Day! Your year may change, but God is still the same.

**Jan 7** – Administrative Bd meeting at 7PM

**Jan 10**- Spiritual Bd. Meeting at 7 PM

**Jan 13**- VBS meeting at Cuyler @ 1PM

**Jan 19**- Women's Fellowship Organizational Meeting @ 10 AM

**Jan 21**—Martin Luther King Day



***2019 Administrative Board***

Nancy Parkhurst	Chairman
Janet Furlough	Secretary/Clerk
Margaret Wilsey	Financial Secretary
Fred Lawrence	Treasure
Teri Burdick	Member at Large
Rosemary Lawrence	Member at Large
Tom Springer	Member at Large
Vern Groves	Pastor

***2019 Spiritual Board***

Tom Springer	Co-Chairman
Linda Springer	Co-Chairman
Jean Whalen	Secretary/Clerk
Laura Centolella	
Maurine Brown	
Shelley Schneeberger	
Rosemary Lawrence	
Nancy Parkhurst	
Roxanne Groves	
Pastor Vern Groves	
Ed Sautter	

REFLECT REVIEW

REPENT RENEW

“HAPPY NEW YEAR”