

Journey with us, destination greatness!



Pastor's Message

This is from TrueFaced by Bill Thrall, Bruce NcNicol, and John Lynch.

“We discover in The Room of Grace that the almost unthinkable has happened. God has shown all of His cards. He reveals a breathtaking protection that brings us out of hiding. In essence God says, “What if I tell them who they are? What if I take away any element of fear in condemnation, judgment, or rejection? What if I tell them I love them, will always love them? That I love them right now, no matter what they’ve done, as much as I love my only Son? That there’s nothing they can do to make My love go away?”

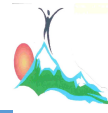
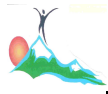
What if I tell them there are no lists? What if I tell them I don’t keep a log of past offenses, of how little they pray, how often they’ve let me down, made promises that they don’t keep? What if I tell them they are righteous, with my righteousness, right now? What if I tell them they can stop beating themselves up? They can stop being so formal, stiff, and jumpy around me? What if I tell them I’m crazy about them? What if I tell them even if they run to the ends of the earth and do the most horrible, unthinkable things, that when they come back, I’d receive them with tears and a party?

What if I tell them that if I am their Savior, they’re going to heaven no matter what—it’s a done deal? What if I tell them they have a new nature—saints, not saved sinners who should now ‘buck-up and be better if they were any kind of Christians, after all

he’s done for you? What if I tell them that I actually live in them now? That I’ve put my love, power, and nature inside of them, at their disposal? What if I tell them that they don’t have to put on a mask? That it is ok to be who they are at this moment, with all their junk. That they don’t need to pretend about how close we are, how much they pray or don’t, how much Bible they read or don’t. What if they knew they don’t have to look over their shoulder for fear if things get too good, the other shoes gonna drop?

“What if they knew I will never, ever use the word punish in relation to them? What if they knew that when they mess up, I will never get back at them? What if they were convinced that bad circumstances aren’t my way of evening the score for taking advantage of me? What if they knew the basis of our friendship isn’t how little they sin, but how much they let me love them? What if I tell them they can hurt my heart, but that I never hurt theirs? What if I tell them I like Eric Clapton’s music too. What if I tell them I never really liked the Christmas hand bell deal with the white gloves? What if I tell them they can open their eyes when they pray and still go to heaven? What if I tell them there is no secret agenda, no trapdoor? What if I tell them it isn’t about their self-effort, but about allowing me to live my life through them?”

When you stand at the crossroad, you decide which road to choose largely upon how you see God’s “gamble.” Do I really believe this stuff will hold up—for me? This is the way of life in the Room of Grace. It is the way home to healing, joy, peace, fulfillment, contentment, and release into God’s dreams for us. It almost feels like we’re stealing silverware from the king’s house, doesn’t it? Truth is, the king paid a lot so that you wouldn’t have to try to steal any silverware. He gets to give it to you, and other stuff so big and good and beautiful that we couldn’t even begin to stuff it into our bag of



loot. Wow! It takes the eyes some adjustment to look into such light, huh?"

I find this quite refreshing to think about. Need to take a drink of God's Grace?

See you @ Worship **Pastor Vern**

Administrative Board

The administrative board met on February 4th and the meeting was conducted by Tom in Chairwoman Nancy's absence.

Treasurer's report was given and the general fund has a balance of \$39,442.76. Fred redesigned the reports for easier review and a new report that lists the financials by fund.

The after school program will start on February 5th from 3 to 4 at the school.

The Church greeters have been assigned for the year, but if anyone still wants to volunteer please contact Tom.

Maintenance work on the heater in the hallway of the church is needed. Also the electric outlets at the Parish House need to be looked at especially in the kitchen. We will need estimates for the work needed at the Parish House.

We discussed Pastor Vern's list for this year's administrative board and spiritual board called "Jesus is on the side of...". Vern wants to encourage us to think about what we can do to promote Jesus to our community.

If anyone has any ideas please contact an administrative board member.

Next meeting is March 4th at 7 PM.

Janet Furlough, clerk

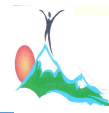
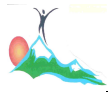


Birthdays

- Mar 1~Keith Wood**
- Mar 1~Deb Everets**
- Mar 2~Bonnie Zeigler**
- Mar 4~John A Fox**
- Mar 9~Mike Harris Jr**
- Mar 10~Joe Centolella**
- Mar 10~Douglas Gast**
- Mar 11~Jon Benedict**
- Mar 12~Jim Haskins**
- Mar 12~Neka Long**
- Mar 14~Eleanor Burrows**
- *Mar 15~Joan & Doug Gast**
- Mar 17~~Rebecca Travis**
- Mar 19~Bill Covert**
- Mar 22~~Lisa Benedict**
- Mar 27~~Steve Whalen**

Youth Sunday School

The elementary children were very creative and made valentine cards to be distributed to the veteran's at the VA Hospital in Syracuse. To end the month they were learning from Luke 6:27-38 how to love others even your enemies. We have been incorporating more science experiments this winter to help visualize God's word.



Remembering when I was young helps me in teaching to the youth. It was in the early 70's that I was sitting in Amos Fox's high school class room which was held in the John Hines room. We all read from the Bible at these half desks that were attached to the chair. It was a long room and we sat two across and I sat in the middle or in the back of the room. The junior high class was across the room and when I was in that class we sat in a circle and the Pastor taught us. The adult class sat in the pews and that class was taught by Marion Fox. Now the adult class is held in the new addition with everyone participating in the lesson. If you still love to learn about the Bible in a small group setting you can still come and join them on a Sunday morning. The adult class will be starting a new series titled: Discipleship and Mission. Each lesson stands on its own so that if you can't make it every week you can still attend some of the classes and be a part of the class discussions.

Janet, youth teacher

Disciples left their occupations and families to follow a teacher and learn everything the teacher had to teach. Disciples became copies of the master teacher. Excerpt from the adult Discipleship and Mission lesson.

Calendar of Events

Each Sun @ 9:30 Sunday School classes-youth 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 Mar 9th- Men's group meets @ 8 am. Lynn's Diner in Cuyler

Sat Mar 23rd - Men's group meets @ 9 am. Parish House

Mar 3 – 9 am worship Service@ Church

12 noon – DeRuyter Basketball @ Dome in Syracuse

Mar 4- Administrative Bd meeting at 7 PM

Mar 7-Spiritual Bd meeting at 7 PM

Mar 10-Daylight saving time begins

Mar 10- VBS meeting at Cuyler @ 1 PM

Mar 16- Women's Fellowship Meeting 10 AM

Mar 17- St. Patrick's Day

Mar 20- Spring begins (YEH!!!!)

I am looking for someone with Website literacy to redesign our Church website. If you are interested please contact me, Pastor Vern at 315-852-9841.

Make a joyful noise

