

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, September 20, 1998

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. We greet the visitors.....delighted and pleased to have you here with us and we hope.....be free in the sharing of your name. Fill out.....or sign one of.....COME, WORSHIP with us. COME, WORK with us in the various concerns and programs....
- B. Doing the Lord's work here at this busy corner....since 1837. Fourth building. Roots are deep. Minister in the name of Christ and it is in His loving spirit...
- C. Members: wear name tags. Greet a new friend. Reach down and grasp the hand of a child and greet that child. So important that we include the children.

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns are "high-lighted" for you in the bulletin. Take a few moments to review those concerns on your own...noting that next Sunday is our HOMECOMING SUNDAY. Begins the Fall programs...shifting into high gear...
- B. Before we know it, we'll be holding our October 3rd All Church Picnic..(sign up today for a place on the bus!) And then it will be the Carnegie Hall concert for the benefit of our Methodist African University (flyer in the bulletin describing it....and costs for a ticket). Then it's on to the Church Conference of October 18th, 1 pm....first official gathering that afternoon in our newly redecorated Fellowship Hall. (Be sure to be there). Then, it's the Halloween, October 31st Rummage Sale. In between the Great Fiction Group will gather and a few other meetings, too.
- C. Flyer being circulated which shares word of the Saturday, September 26th Adult Fellowship gathering in Central Park behind the Museum. Gail Bradshaw can answer questions and give you more information.
- D. Sunday School for the children is now underway. Teachers are still needed and being recruited. Also, I've been hearing good things about Michael Reaves' leadership in the Adult Bible Class of Sunday mornings....9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Also, for those who sing, now's a good time to join the choir.
- E. Yes, next Sunday is HOMECOMING SUNDAY. Some use that date to make a review or a check on their yearly pledge gift to the church. By now, 3/4th of that generous pledge gift is "in"...and for those simple mathematical and spiritual initiative, we are most grateful!

OFFERING

A. Jesus once said:

"GIVE...and it will be given you! For a good measure,
pressed down, shaken together, running over...will be
put into your lap.

For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

How true it is....and He also said:

"It is more blessed to GIVE...than it is to receive."

B. In this spirit, in HIS spirit...let us worship God with our
morning offering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, September 13, 1998

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. A word of greeting to the visitors....delighted....and we hope that.... BE FREE in the sharing of your name...FILL OUT...SIGN.. COME, WORSHIP...come, work with us...
- B. Doing the Lord's work at this busy corner of God's Kingdom since 1837. Fourth building. Roots.....we minister in the name of Christ, and it is in His loving spirit.....
- C. Members: be sure to wear...name tags. Bend over and greet a child. Introduce yourself....remember, too, that sign on the doughnut shop I see every summer up in Maine...

"NO STRANGERS HERE...ONLY FRIENDS WHO
HAVE NOT YET MET..."

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns "lifted up" for you in the bulletin...review them on your own noting the meetings "in the works"....four of them coming along in the next ten days as we get caught up and make plans for the weeks ahead....
- B. Homecoming Sunday is two weeks from today....share word and plan to be here...invite a friend to come with you. Two weeks from today. The 27th of September.
- C. Pick up your copy of our monthly news sheet...copies in the usual places...narthex by the door. Russell Room - downstairs.
- D. Sunday School is beginning...getting under way. Teachers are now being recruited for the weeks ahead. Be in touch with one of the three persons...Carl Condra, or Susan and Michael Reaves.
- E. Good to have the organ back in working order. Fellowship Hall will be back together by Monday afternoon.
- F. Sign up for the October 3rd Fall church Picnic...Doreen Morales. Also, a picnic for Adult Fellowship members....flyer being circulated....Central Park, Saturday, September 26th, 1 pm...behind the Metropolitan Museum.
- G. Today's special for us....welcome back Ruth and Freddie Daniel of England....introduce them to you at the coffee hour downstairs.

OFFERING

A. We come now to the time of our Sunday offering...remembering the words of Jesus:

"It is more blessed to give than it is to receive...." In this spirit, let us worship God...

OUR SUNDAY OFFERING...
"...THEY WILL GIVE"

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PASTORAL PRAYER: September 13, 1998

GOD, OUR FATHER, we come again in to Your Presence...as we are -

With our feelings of failure,
With our frustrations,
our guilt,
our loneliness,
our depression,
our fear.

We do not need to confess whatever feelings are going through us in these moments of worship. You already know them and we believe that You understand them.

But we do confess our slowness to acknowledge and to deal with the feelings that pull us down in life. We permit layer and layer of frustration to pile up in our lives until we just don't know where to begin in finding solutions. We feel so weighed down by the load we are carrying, the burdens upon us!

HELP US, LORD, in our worship to sort out the tangled problems of our lives until we can see them more clearly.

Through the meditations of our minds,
enable us to see beneath the symptoms
to the causes. Then, Lord, give us guidance
to make those changes which will remove the
causes of destructive moods and negative
attitudes.

WE ARE SEPARATE, YET WE ARE JOINED IN THESE MOMENTS THROUGH OUR PRAYERS.

You have called us to be ONE BODY. Enable us to see ourselves more than a gathering of individuals. Give us a vision of our being the Church of Jesus Christ - joined into One Body - for our mission of service in the world.

And make us aware of those sitting near us in Church...of their needs and problems.

We pray for the needs of others. We pray for those held captive by life's experiences...for their loved ones...that they may be strengthened to live with renewed hope and uncertainty. We pray for the refugees of our world, for those fleeing political persecution. We pray for the hungry and the homeless.

LORD, we have come here believing that worship can make a difference in our lives and also in the life of our world. Therefore, make us receptive to new insights that will help us, new inspiration that can motivate us, new understanding that can bring change to our lives.

All this we ask in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.