

# Steeple Notes

## Central Church

*“Where Jesus is Lord & All are Loved!”*



Huntington, New York

March 2020

## Solomon, Ecclesiastes and You



For 2020, I have been teaching from the book of Ecclesiastes during our Christian Education hour. King Solomon's book is famous for its stark observations about life. Starting with one of the most well-known openings in all of literature:

Ecclesiastes 1:1 *“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. 3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? 4 A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. 5 The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. 6 The wind blows to the south, and goes around to the north, round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. 7 All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.”*

To this Solomon adds in Ecclesiastes 1:9b: *“. . . there is nothing new under the sun.”*

This book has been one of the most provocative books to discuss, yielding much reflection and participation from everyone. But along with all this, there is a sense that Solomon's meditations were on one hand too far from the likes of us today, but on the other hand, strangely applicable to us all. So, what gives? And how are we to make sense of it all?

Our discussion explored the finitude of human experience as observed by Solomon. But really, as an absolute king and master over his land, would his thoughts really apply to any of us today? Ever time we thought we were getting close to Solomon, we were reminded of his fabulous wealth and his indescribable lifestyle. As Solomon said of himself . . .

Ecclesiastes 2:9 *“So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. 10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. 11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the*

*toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun."*

Then I remembered an article about the quality of life of Medieval kings being roughly the equivalent to a middle-class person of our current times. In fact, the article pointed out that in many ways, the middle-class person of today has a much better quality of life (just think about basic medical care). And this was really before the availability and wide adoption of high-speed internet access! And, of course, within the past 50 years we, in America, have really denied ourselves no pleasure under the sun. Then the realization dawned on me that Solomon's meditation of the vanity of worldly living was VERY applicable to us today. Perhaps it is applicable more today than in any other time in world history!

Which brings us to what for me is the summation of Solomon's meditation on life. After all is said and done, this is what Solomon upholds:

*Ecclesiastes 9:9 "Enjoy life with the wife you love, all the days of your vain life which he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion of life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun."*

For all of his vaunted wisdom, wealth and womanizing, Solomon realizes at the end that none of it compares to the simple but profound love a man has for his wife. And all the rest are vanities. So what does this mean for us today.

1. In a direct sense, we should accept Solomon's wisdom to love the wife who is at home. This speaks volumes to us in our day of hyper-pumped up sensuality and stimulation.
2. And in a deep sense, understand what this first wisdom points to: that God is preparing us to become the bride of Jesus, who loves us perfectly.
3. Finally, we are blessed far more that Solomon could even understand in his lifetime!

Solomon lived hundreds of years before the coming of Jesus. In that, he is living through the growing understand that God reveals of the coming Savior. For instance, Solomon's father, David, authored the very psalms that meditates on the coming Lord:

Psalm 110:1 "A Psalm of David. 1 The LORD says to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.'"

But we today are living with Jesus! For what Solomon could only dream of, we now have. Amazing how we are blessed in our lives today!

May the Lord bless us all abundantly.  
Pastor Paul Lee

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS ~**

## **Passages**

### **March Birthdays**

04 Ken Chin  
04 Amelia Vandergoot  
05 Lauren Lewis  
06 Shima Boettjer  
06 Kevin Reilly  
07 James Sutherland  
09 Jace Boyle  
09 Evelyn Brodbeck  
10 James Joseph Tiemann  
11 Seth Lee  
14 Ken Roman  
15 Sophia Swanson  
17 Doral Hardy  
17 Kari Reilly  
19 Henry Grill  
19 Andrea Hines-Sterling  
20 Cayden Fernandez  
21 James D. Clous  
24 Paige Pollaccia  
25 Eloise Clark  
25 Mariah Wilson  
26 George Korinek  
26 Kassidy Reilly  
29 Beverly Vandergoot

Our condolences to Shirley Hardy-Reeves and family on the February 10<sup>th</sup> passing of Shirley's brother, Calvin Wilson.

Our condolences as well to Jerome Dekie and family on the passing of his father, Giro "Jerome" Dekie, on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

And our sympathies to Tommy and Lori McLaughlin on the passing of Tommy's grandfather, Joseph Prochaska, on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Joseph had recently turned 101 years old.

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### **March Anniversaries**

12 Carolyn & Albert Thuro



## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Mark Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> on your calendars – that's when **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** begins!!!

**REMEMBER** to turn all of your clocks AHEAD one hour on Saturday night! You want to be on time for worship the next morning, don't you???

March 2020

## WCC HAPPENINGS

### March at a Glance

#### **Tuesday, March 3**

10:00 am – Board Meeting

#### **Tuesday, March 10**

10:00 am – All Circles will meet at church for a joint Circle Meeting and Game Day.

### Looking Ahead to April

#### **Tuesday, April 7**

10:00 am – Board Meeting

#### **Friday, April 10**

12:30 pm – Annual Soup and Sandwich luncheon following the noontime Good Friday Community Worship Service.

#### **Tuesday, April 14**

All three Circles will meet either in homes or at church. Watch for places and times of each Circle meeting in the Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> bulletin

#### **Tuesday & Wednesday, April 28-29**

Overnight retreat to Cormaria. See more information as follows:

### Coming Up – Cormaria Retreat

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> is the annual WCC overnight retreat to Cormaria in Sag Harbor.

Cormaria is a beautiful old mansion with recently renovated private bedrooms (shared bath) on the waterfront.

The cost for three meals (dinner, breakfast and lunch) plus overnight accommodations is \$105 per person. Part time is also available (speak with retreat coordinator, Nancy Clous for that special rate). The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our speaker is our own Kay Jahn. She will continue last year's topic, speaking on ***"Being and Doing!"*** Are you focused on "being" or are you focused on "doing?" Kay will explore this during the teaching sessions together.

Besides a time of inspiration, there will also be free time to sit on the waterside dock, take a walk into the Village of Sag Harbor and, of course, wonderful fellowship. Car-pooling is also available.

### Ongoing Collections

- Nonperishable food for the Helping Hand Rescue Mission. Your donations for Helping Hand can be left in the wooden chest in the hallway near the Church Library.
- Gently-used eye glasses for Lens Crafters. Their program, OneSight, sends gently-used glasses to global, regional, and community clinics.
- Warm hats and gloves for HiHi, Helping Hand Rescue Mission and the VA Hospital.

## March 2020

WCC - continued

- And items for the veterans at the VA Hospital at Northport. A list is posted on the WCC bulletin board next to their workroom. Please mark these items for the "VA." If you have any questions, speak with Dotty Kannapin.

Questions?? Contact Gladys Paulsen at [mitiglad@yahoo.com](mailto:mitiglad@yahoo.com) or text her at 631-87306446.

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These items can be left in, or outside of the WCC Workroom which is located opposite the Church Nursery.

For more WCC information, please contact WCC President Ruth Korinek at 631-271-8566.

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Moms in Prayer impacts children and schools worldwide by gathering mothers (and all women who have a desire to pray for children and schools) to pray scripturally for one hour each week. Entire communities are transformed when we gather to pray to the only One who can change a human heart. You were made for such a time as this.

Central Church's Moms in Prayer group meets from 12 noon to 1 pm on Thursdays.

If this is not good for you, please visit [momsinprayer.org](http://momsinprayer.org) to find a group that fits with your schedule or to find help in starting a new group.

March 2020

## Deacons' Corner

Hello from the faithful Deacons of Central Church.

As a refresher, the Deacons are responsible for preparing (cutting up all those little pieces of bread and filling all those little cups!) and serving communion, submitting monthly communion count to Session, participating in shut-in communion with the Pastor and an Elder, doing in-reach and outreach ministry such as Christmas gifts and visits with our elderly saints, Christmas gifts for college and military church members, provide emergency assistance and food assistance for church and community members, congregation care which includes birthday cards, coordinate the ever successful Community Thanksgiving luncheon, support the HiHi Warm Bed program, provide transportation to/from medical appointments as needed, give away Bibles and tract acquisition, attend monthly meetings, set up, serve and clean up Sunday refreshments (January through April), write our monthly Steeple Notes, keep a first aid kits and AED stocked and charged.

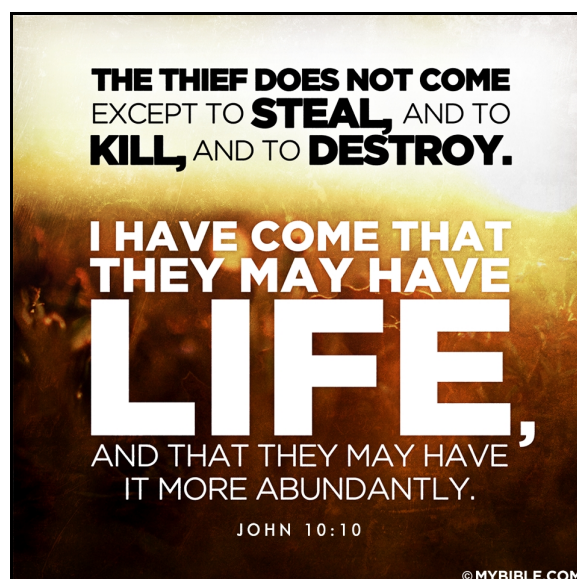
Opportunities to Serve: There are many opportunities for you to serve with the above duties. For example, volunteers are very much needed for the Monday HiHi program. You can contact Fred or Evelyn Brodbeck about that. You can also contact the Deacon-on-Call, as listed in the Sunday bulletin, for any additional information.

And lastly, I am stepping down from my position as Deacon after serving since 2006 (with time off for good behavior!) As Don and I are moving to North Carolina. It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the Board through the years with outstanding Christians such as Wilton and Shirley Reeves, Becky Crabtree, Stanley and Andrea Hines, Ayer Bellerman, Deb McCoy, Beverly Vandergoot, Evelyn Brodbeck, Karen Swanson, Sue Valerio, Janice Bradley, Carolyn Thuro, Leslie Sutherland, Lucy Malm, Malia Bundt and Gina Auricchio.

May God bless and equip Central's Board of Deacons to continue mightily in His Service.

Lorraine McGinn Engelhart

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March 2020

## ***Notes from Your Session:***

Here are some actions taken at recent regular meetings of Session:

### From December meeting:

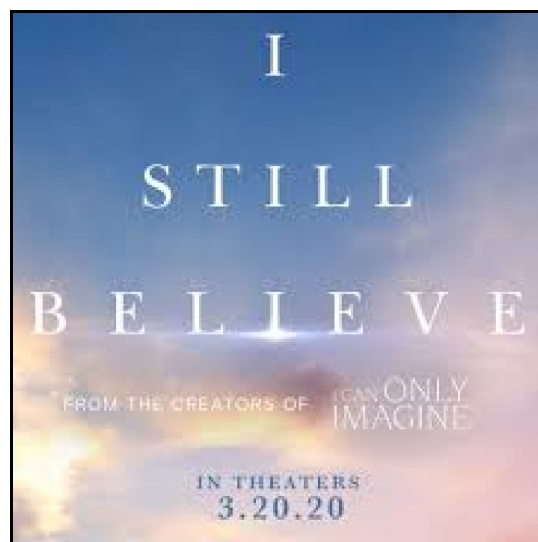
- approved the appointment of Frank Marlow as Clerk of Session for 2020.
- approved the appointment of James Clous as Treasurer for 2020.
- authorized the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month or on another Sunday/day when deemed necessary.
- approved the date of the Annual Gathering on Sunday, February 23, 2020.
- approved the installation/ordination of new church officers on Sunday, January 5, 2020.
- approved a job description for the position of Director of Youth Ministries.
- authorized the Personnel Committee to offer the position of Director of Youth Ministries to Ms. Rayna Kavanaugh.
- approved changing our church motto to "Where Jesus is Lord and **ALL** are Loved."

### From January meeting:

- Session adopted the 2020 budget.
- approved study leave for Pastor Paul from March 16-22 and vacation leave from March 23-29.
- approved the appointment of Rayna Kavanaugh as Director of Youth Ministries, effective February 1, 2020.

- approved the retainer agreement with Philip A. Byler, Esq. in the matter of the Presbytery of Long Island vs. Central Presbyterian Church.

– Frank Marlow, Clerk

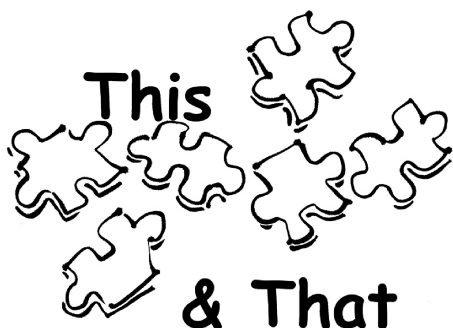


## ***I STILL BELIEVE***

is the true-life journey of love and loss that looks to prove there is always hope, of Christian music star Jeremy Camp, and his first wife, Melissa Lynn Henning-Camp, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer shortly before they married.

Staring KJ Apa as Jeremy, with Britt Robertson and Melissa and Shania Twain and Gary Sinise as Jeremy's parents. This film opens in theaters on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

March 2020



### **2019 ANNUAL REPORTS**

Central held its Annual Gathering on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reports from that meeting are still available. If you'd like a copy of Part 1-Written Report or Part 2-Financials, or both, please contact the Church Office and we'll put one aside for you.

### **CHANCEL FLOWERS**

We have many dates available throughout the year if you are interested in purchasing flowers for the Chancel on a Sunday in honor or memory of family, friends or other loved ones. There are two arrangements on the Chancel each Sunday and each arrangement is \$20. We are asking, if possible, that you purchase both arrangements on a particular Sunday, at a cost of \$40. However, if you can only purchase one arrangement on a particular date, we will try to pair you up with someone else that can only do one arrangement.

Check with the Church Office, 631-421-3663, if you'd like to reserve a date for Chancel flowers.



### **EASTER LILIES**

Watch your Sunday bulletins for more information and pricing on ***EASTER LILIES***. We will be taking orders for those beginning Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> (with a deadline to order of Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>).

### **STUDENT MASTER CLASS RECITAL TO BE HELD AT CENTRAL**

Suzanne Valerio invites you to a recital given by her students held here at Central Church on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Suzanne has held several of these recitals here for the past several years. Her students are incredibly gifted and this will be an evening that you won't want to miss!!

There is no charge for this recital, but you will have an opportunity to make a private, voluntary contribution to the orphanages that we support in Haiti which can really use our assistance.

So, mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

### **COMMUNITY LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

Our Wednesday morning ladies Bible Study is take a brief break. They ended their studies on February 19<sup>th</sup> and will resume again on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please make note of this.



March 2020

## MARCH 2020 YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

6<sup>th</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sunday, March 1 6-8 pm  
**Evening Service "The Shelter"**

Tuesday, March 3 7:30-8:45 pm  
**Regular Youth Group Meeting**

Tuesday, March 10 7:30-8:45 pm  
**Regular Youth Group Meeting**

Sunday, March 15 6-8 pm  
**Evening Service "The Shelter"**

Tuesday, March 17 7:30-8:45 pm  
**Regular Youth Group Meeting**

Tuesday, March 24 7:30-8:45 pm  
**Regular Youth Group Meeting**

Tuesday, March 31 7:30-8:45 pm  
**Regular Youth Group Meeting**

Come and get to know our new Director of Youth Ministries, Ms. Rayna Kavanaugh!



## ***Kids Central Continues through May 7<sup>th</sup>***

Our Kids Central program for kids in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade continues each Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6 pm.

Our kids learn more about the Lord through music, dance, drama and art. And there's still plenty of room to enroll your kid now!!!

It's just \$15 per child for the entire semester.

If you're interested, contact Jeanine Stuyvesant in the Church Office at 631-421-3663.

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## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES HAVE BEGUN**

Confirmation classes for teens have begun. The next class is Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 1 pm in the Church Office. We look forward to seeing our next generation stand up and confirm their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior!

If you are interested in having your teens attend these classes, please speak with Pastor Paul or contact the Church Office, 631-421-3663.

**March 2020**

**NEW MEMBER/INQUIRERS  
CLASSES BEGINNING THIS MONTH**

If you are interested in becoming a member of Central Church, or just learning morning about us – our history, our denomination, our beliefs, our ministries, you are welcome to come to our classes.

They will be held on Sundays, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the White Room immediately following Worship at 11:30 am.

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All submissions for the April/May issue of Steeple Notes are due into the Church Office by Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for your help and understanding!

Linda/Church Office

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**CHANGES COMING  
TO STEEPLE NOTES:**

Beginning with the next issue, Steeple Notes will be now be published every two months. So the next issue will cover the months April & May, then June/July and so on.

For those of you who submit articles, events, ministry updates, etc., please keep in mind that we will need those submission for two months.

Did you know that Steeple Notes is also published on our website?? If you scroll down to the bottom of the opening page, you'll see a link to our newsletter. Just click on it and you'll see the entire issue!

Also, there are some of you who may no longer want to receive Steeple Notes. If this is the case, simply let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list – but we will be sorry to see you go!

## WHAT IS LENT?

Basically the season of Lent is a time to set aside! As we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian calendar – Good Friday and Easter Day! Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from, and it brings our need for a Savior to the forefront.

Lent is an opportunity for us to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross – and it wasn't pretty. Ultimately the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair – it points us to the hope of the Resurrection and to the day when every tear will be dried.

The 2020 Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday on February 26<sup>th</sup>, and if you follow the 40 day transition, it ends on Holy Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. During these 40 days, we set aside time to really examine areas of recurring sin in our lives that prevent us from being conformed to God's Will. The goal is to honestly examine our lives in light of God's Word, and to make a commitment to change in any areas you have not submitted to the Lord.

During Lent many take the opportunity to fast as well as pray, and if done correctly, it can be a powerful time of renewing our relationship with God. Fasting can be found in both the Old and New Testaments – it is a way of denying ourselves the excess of life so that we

might be more attuned to God's voice. It is also a way to discipline ourselves and strengthen ourselves so that when temptations arise in life, we are already used to saying "no" to our desires. Finally, it is also a particularly powerful way of participating, in a small way, in the sufferings of Christ. It can be very powerful when accompanied with prayer and confession.

(But a word of caution on fasting – make sure that when you fast you do not deprive yourself so that you do harm to your body. Fasting should be done by adults and mature teens and you should take into account any medical conditions or nutritional needs when deciding what and how much to abstain from.)

Finally, in addition to contemplation, confession, prayer and fasting, Scriptural meditation typically turns to the salvation offered to us through Christ's suffering as we read Old Testament Scriptures prophesying the suffering of Christ and the New Testament Gospel accounts.

Those who journey through the Lenten season will enter the Easter season with an increased appreciation for who God is and what He has done for us. And the joy of Resurrection, as well as the wonderful promises of eternity, will not be soon forgotten.

– excerpts from an article entitled ["What is Lent: Honoring the Sacrifice of Jesus"](http://www.crosswalk.com) by Sarah Phillips, contributing editor on [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Children's SS & Morning Worship - 10 am Coffee Break - 11:15 am New Member Class - 11:30 am The Shelter - 6 pm NA Group - 7 pm	2 HiHi - 5 pm	3 Morning Prayer - 9:30 am WCC Board Mtg - 10 am Deacons Mtg - 7 pm Youth Group - 7:30 pm	4	5 Moms in Prayer - 12 noon Staff Mtg - 1 pm Kids Central - 4:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	6 <b>World Day of Prayer</b> Jahn/Engelhart Well Group - 7:30 pm  <b>April/May Steeple Notes Due Today</b>	7 NA Meeting - 9 am  <b>Don't Forget to move your clocks 1 hour ahead tonight!</b>
<b>8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Children's SS & Morning Worship - 10 am Coffee Break - 11:15 am New Member Class - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm  <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	9 HiHi - 5 pm Trustees Mtg. - 7:30 pm	10 Morning Prayer - 9:30 am Joint WCC Circles - morning Youth Group - 7:30 pm	11	12 Moms in Prayer - 12 noon Staff Mtg - 1 pm Kids Central - 4:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	13	14 NA Meeting - 9 am Confirmation Class - 11 am
<b>15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Children's SS & Morning Worship - 10 am Coffee Break - 11:15 am New Member Class - 11:30 am The Shelter - 6 pm NA Group - 7 pm	16 HiHi - 5 pm (last)	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b> Morning Prayer - 9:30 am Youth Group - 7:30 pm	18	<b>19 First Day of Spring</b> Moms in Prayer - 12 noon Kids Central - 4:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm  <b>No Staff Meeting Today</b>	20 Jahn/Engelhart Well Group - 7:30 pm	21 NA Meeting - 9 am
<b>22 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Children's SS & Morning Worship - 10 am Coffee Break - 11:15 am Master Class Recital - 7 pm NA Group - 7 pm	23	24 Morning Prayer - 9:30 am Steeple Notes Mail - 9:15 am Youth Group - 7:30 pm	25	26 Moms in Prayer - 12 noon Kids Central - 4:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm  <b>No Staff Meeting Today</b>	27	28 NA Meeting - 9 am
<b>29 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Children's SS & Morning Worship - 10 am Coffee Break - 11:15 am C.E. Hour - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm	30	31 Morning Prayer - 9:30 am Session - 7:30 pm Youth Group - 7:30 pm				

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm unless otherwise specified.**  
**Please check your Sunday bulletins for any additions, deletions or changes**  
**to Church events, ministries and meetings.**

