



**First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac**  
**Monthly Newsletter – August-September 2017**  
**[www.mahopacchurch.org](http://www.mahopacchurch.org)**

*Special Interest  
This Month:*

*Pastor Search*

*Manse Update*

*Rally Day!*

*Sunday School &  
Nursery School*

*Holmes Camp  
Director Retires*

# Change Happens!

Summer, and August in particular, are always a time for reflection. A little more than halfway through the season, we start to take stock of how Summer has gone.

- What we accomplished and did not accomplish yet
- What we expected and what we have seen
- What we will always remember and what we would rather forget

Lots of hot weather, sunshine, fun times and projects are left to do. And we start to secretly wish for the cool days and nights and the brilliant colors of Autumn.

Seasons change. Autumn will officially be here before October. Sometime soon we will start to feel some pressure to wrap up our Summer and move on to what's next.

In previous issues of this newsletter, the front page was dedicated to a major change – Karen's passing, Kathy's hiring, Cheryl's leaving. There has been no single major event, but a number of ongoing changes that, while they have not been completed, promise to move this church and this congregation into new territories of fiscal, physical and spiritual well-being soon.

It is those potential changes – in progress – that provide the theme for this issue.

First Presbyterian Church  
411 Route 6N  
Mahopac, NY 10541 (845) 628-2365

# News from the Congregation

by Kathy Cinquina

\*Good Luck to Robert Simmonds, Kristen Cinquina, and Zoe Hanfmann as they start their high school careers as freshman at Walter Panas High School (Kristen and Robert) and Lakeland High School (Zoe).

\*Our own Karen Trovato is being honored as an Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medalist on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in Hyde Park. The Medal is given annually to individuals and organizations of high ideals and courageous actions in their fields. Karen 's work within the disciplines of robotics, navigation technology and healthcare solutions as part of the Philips Research team has distinguished her in her field, and we congratulate her on this wonderful accomplishment!

\*Verna Lee's son, Manny, has finished his junior year of his undergrad studies at the University of Buffalo, and met the G.P.A. requirement for acceptance into the pharmacy graduate school- without the need to complete the grad school application. He has been officially notified of the orientation days, and will attend the white coat ceremony on Aug. 24th. Congratulations and Best Wishes to him!

\*Kristin Palmieri is looking for a part-time weekly nanny for her 18 month old son in her home:

"The start date would be mid-September. My son is a very happy and energetic toddler. We are looking for a reliable, honest, fun and caring nanny who is comfortable with three small dogs. Must be able to carry one small elderly Pug dog (20 pounds) up and down steps for her to go outside. Must have CPR or obtain Red Cross online certificate prior to care. Have prior toddler experience and be drug free. Be willing to drive toddler to library book group, parks department, and gymnastics (mileage reimbursement @ 0.53 cents per mile). I need coverage on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8am-6pm. The days are not flexible. Pay \$15 per hour. Contact [KristinPalmieri@yahoo.com](mailto:KristinPalmieri@yahoo.com)"

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## The Search For a Pastor

The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee has completed the required Ministry Information Form (MIF) and met with Rev. Gavin Meek, Interim General Presbyter, and Rev. Luanne Panarotti, liaison to the Commission on Ministry (COM). Our next step is to have our MIF approved by the COM. (As you can see, we have learned a lot of new acronyms in the search process.) While we are moving at slower pace than we had originally anticipated, we are confident the process will bring to us a well matched pastor.

Finding and hiring a short term Interim Pastor, a step that we had originally thought was unnecessary, has upon reflection, been seen as the best way to prepare the way for more permanent pastoral presence.



On August 5, we hosted a pot-luck meet-and-greet for Rev. Glen Reichelderfer and his wife Christine. Rev. Reichelderfer is a candidate for the position of Interim Pastor, soon retiring as Associate Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison Wisconsin.

Rev. Reichelderfer conducted our Sunday Service and preached on August 6.

*[NOTE: The DPNC hopes to have an Interim Pastor in place before the next issue of this newsletter is published. Whenever that happens, we will send out a special email to members and subscribers.]*



## Manse Renovation Project Update

The renovation of the Manse, at the corner of Route 6N and Secor Road, has shifted gears and changes are indeed in progress. After several months of no activity on the site, a new contractor was hired with a mandate to finish the project as quickly as possible without cutting too many corners.

Over the past few weeks, remaining framing work has been completed, and electrical wiring has been roughed in and passed inspection by the Town of Carmel. Rough plumbing, heating and air conditioning installations are underway and may already be completed and inspected by the time this newsletter is published.

“To say that we are pleased is an understatement,” said Elder Ray Liverzani, who is managing the Manse project. “Lloyd (Elder Lloyd Williams) and I go to the work site once or twice a day and there is always something that has been finished since the last visit and the contractor is asking my opinion or approval on materials for steps to be taken when the current work is finished.”

When will the project be finished and the Manse ready for occupancy? “That’s a good question,” Elder Liverzani said, “and one I wish I could answer. We are hoping for a finished renovation to be signed off by the Town sometime before Thanksgiving. Let’s keep praying that we don’t hit any more snags.”

Many donations have been received and are greatly appreciated but of course future donations to help defray the cost of the renovation are always encouraged. If anyone would like to have a look at the current progress, a tour can be arranged. Call the church office at 845-628-2365.



## Sunday School / Rally Day

Our 2017-2018 Sunday School year will begin on **Rally Day-Sunday, September 10, 2017.**

We look forward to seeing the kids' smiling faces as classes begin again - another year of learning about the Bible and how to grow in faith.

We also have two of our Spring confirmands- Zoe Hanfmann and Kristen Cinquina- interested in returning to help out this year.

Sunday School runs from 9:15am-10:15am (in between our 8:30am and 10:30am services), giving parents/grandparents the opportunity to attend church services with their children.

Note: Our doors are always open for visiting cousins and friends too!

Congratulations to students who were promoted to the next Sunday School grade last Spring!

Promoted to SECOND Grade:

- Evan Paris-Devane

Promoted to THIRD Grade:

- Julius Salomon

Promoted to FOURTH Grade:

- Aidan Paris-Devane

Promoted to FIFTH Grade:

- Samantha Salomon
- Angela Narcissi
- Jillian Cinquina

Promoted to SEVENTH Grade:

- J.T. Noble

If you or someone you know would like to enroll children in Sunday School this year, Please print and fill out the form on the following page and return it to the Church Office. You can also hand it in on Rally Day. Please fill out a separate form for each child you would like to enroll.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MAHOPAC  
411 Route 6N  
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Church Office: 845 628-2365  
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Website: [www.Mahopacchurch.org](http://www.Mahopacchurch.org)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM 2017-2018**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is this a new address, phone number, or e-mail? (Y/N)

Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Birthday/Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Age of Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Are There Any Special Needs/Food Allergies?:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (other than parents): \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact's Relationship to the Child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doctor's Name and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**If I cannot be reached in an emergency, I give permission to First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac and its Officers to seek Emergency Medical treatment for my child.**

Please sign for Parental Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Sunday School Calendar – Fall 2017

**SEPT 10<sup>th</sup>- RALLY DAY**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**SEPT 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**SEPT 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**OCT 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**OCT 8<sup>th</sup>- COLUMBUS DAY  
WEEKEND**  
No Sunday School  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**OCT 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**OCT 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**OCT 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**NOV 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**NOV 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**NOV 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**NOV 26<sup>th</sup>- THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**  
No Sunday School  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**DEC 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**DEC 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**DEC 17<sup>th</sup>- CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**DEC 24<sup>th</sup>- CHRISTMAS EVE**  
No Sunday School  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**DEC 31<sup>st</sup>- NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
No Sunday School  
Worship 8:30 & 10:30 AM





## Fund Raising Schedule

Here is the schedule of fund raising events through the end of 2017.

### Fall Rent-A-Space Community Tag Sale

9/30/17; Set-up: 8:00am, Sale: 9:00am-3:00pm  
Vendors \$25.00 in Advance; \$30.00 Day of the Sale; Table Rental \$10.00

### Fall Rummage Sale

Donation Days:  
Saturday, 9/30/17; 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Sunday, 10/1/17; 12:30pm-5:00pm  
Monday, 10/2/17; 10:00am-6:00pm  
Tuesday 10/3/17; 10:00am-2:00pm

### Sale Days:

Friday, 10/6/17; 9:00am-6:00pm  
\$5.00 Bag Day: Saturday, 10/7/17; 9:00am-2:00pm

### Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, 11/18/17; 9:00am-3:00pm (Snow Date: 11/25/17)  
Breakfast and Lunch Served

*Volunteers are always needed and welcome for any of the events. Fund-raising volunteers have consistently said that the fellowship of working with others on these equals or exceeds the money raised. If you'd like to help, call Kathy at the church office, 845-628-2365.*

## Stewardship

It is never too early to start thinking about stewardship. It is not a season of four weeks or six weeks but is an ongoing commitment to God and your fellow worshippers.

"A checkbook is a theological document; it will tell you who and what you worship."

Billy Graham

"Christian stewardship begins with God at the center. When stewardship revolves around any other center, it is misconceived. The institution of the church is an inadequate substitute for the incarnate body of Christ. The church as institution is a means to the end of the church as the fellowship of all believers. Stewardship is servanthood to God through the church, not to the church institution."

*Dan R. Dick in Revolutionizing Stewardship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Lessons from Copernicus*



## 2017-2018 Youth Group Summary

We are looking forward to expanding our Youth Group to include not only our older kids, but also the next generation- our current Sunday School group!

To this end, we are going to be meeting as a group in September (on Rally Day-during Sunday School) to go over a proposed calendar with a balance of events that are both fun and which also demonstrate concern and caring for others who are not as fortunate.

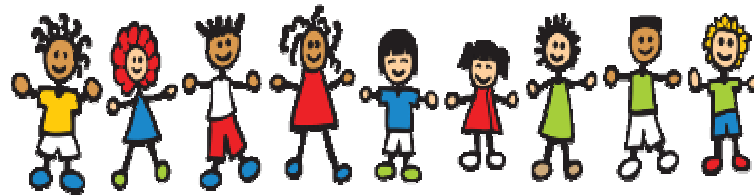
If anyone from the congregation is interested in attending this meeting to share ideas, please do! And if anyone knows anyone from age 5 and up who would like to participate, please let me know (Kathy at [presby411@verizon.net](mailto:presby411@verizon.net)).

It is a great, local opportunity for high schoolers to gain necessary community service hours during the year!

## Mahopac Falls Nursery School

The New Mahopac Falls Nursery School is getting ready for the start of another great school year! First up on Friday, September 8th is the "Meet Your Teacher" Tea, where the students will come in to meet their teachers and their classmates and share some snacks. The school year officially starts on Monday, September 11th.

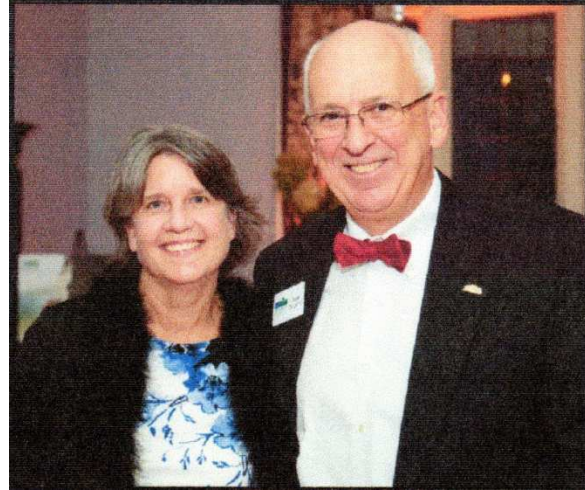
Note that The New Mahopac Falls Nursery School will follow the Mahopac Schools district calendar and registrations are still being accepted for the 2017 -2018 school year. Check us out on our Facebook Page at "The New Mahopac Falls Nursery School", and call us at 845 444-6206 for enrollment details and pricing information.



## Holmes Camp Director Retires

Rev. Peter Surgenor, Executive Director of the Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, is retiring from that job as of August 31.

Peter has led and developed the camp ministry and activities at Holmes since January 2000. Since then, summer camper numbers and program quality have grown with added programs including (night owl, archery,



culinary and horseback). Facilities have seen improvements including Scudder Pavilion, renovations at Denton Dining Hall, Don's Diner, Nunemaker and Westminster Lodge, and planning continues for an expanded Agape facility. Peter has been a resource person to all three of our supporting Presbyteries (Hudson River, Long Island and New York City) and has built relationships with many committed Presbyterians and others.

First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac has been blessed over the years to have Peter conduct services as guest minister. He also served as Moderator of our Session following the retirement of Rev. Ken Mast.

Peter is currently the Moderator of Hudson River Presbytery and will remain in that position for the rest of the year. Hudson River Presbytery began a habit of meeting at Holmes and for the last three years New York City Presbytery has traveled to Holmes for a fall meeting.

During his time at Holmes, Peter met and married Rev. Cathryn T. Surgenor. They have five daughters, four sons-in-law and five grandchildren spread from Helena, MT to Foxborough, MA.

Peter and Cathy will be moving to Newburgh and look forward to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Newburgh, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Accompaniment in Colombia and other activities.



## Mission and Community Outreach



CROP Hunger Walk 2017 will be held on Sunday, October 15th. This is an outreach program that our church has actively participated in for many years. We walk, with members of other local churches, to raise money to help fight world hunger. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by [Church World Service](#) and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Participation in this event will not only make you feel good physically, it will also make you feel great spiritually, because you will know that you are helping others. Consider spending a couple of hours walking on the beautiful bike path with friends for a worthy cause. Or if you cannot walk, consider donating to someone you know who is. Contact Liz Narcissi for details!

### **International Community Support Opportunity:**

Per Johanna O'Brien:

"I purchased 5 GORGEOUS Sari Silk Skirt Wraps! Purchases of this skirt help provide families in need in Nepal & India with year-round jobs! These are skirts made from recycled saris, and come in many different colors and lengths. They are a lot of fun to wear, and their purchase help women provide for their families. This website also sells yarns made from ends of cloth too! "Shop For Good Now: [www.darngood yarn.com](http://www.darngood yarn.com)"

### **Cooking for Jan Peek House**

Our church provides a meal for residents of Jan Peek House in Peekskill on the third Saturday of each month. Volunteers are needed! You can prepare and/or serve the meal. Sign up on the sheet in the church library or just let Kathy Cinquina know what date you would like to volunteer for. Available dates this Fall include October 21, November 18 and December 16.

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## Helping With Worship

### Lectors:

8/13/17- Johanna O'Brien  
8/20/17- Samantha Narcissi  
8/27/17- Heather Strickland

### Counters:

8/13/17- Heather Strickland and Lisa Pastorino  
8/20/17- Paul Novotny and MaryAnn DeSanctis  
8/27/17- Verna Lee and Caren Mack  
9/3/17 - Ray Liverzani and Renae Gollins  
9/10/17- Lloyd Williams and Karen Trovato  
9/17/17- Jose Rivera and Debbie Tully  
9/24/17- Marion Lott and Lori Novotny

### Coffee Hour Hosts:

8/13/17- Ken and Marion Lott  
8/20/17- Joyce McCarthy and Loretta Billington  
8/27/17-Volunteer(s) Needed

*\*We have hosting slots available for upcoming Sundays. Please consider hosting alone or volunteer as a team.*

### Deacon for September:

Lori Novotny

### Cooking for Jan Peek House:

8/19/17- Lisa and Steven Pastorino  
9/16/17- MaryAnn DeSanctis

*\* Our church provides a meal for residents of Jan Peek House in Peekskill on the third Saturday of each month. Volunteers are needed! You can prepare and/or serve the meal. Available dates this Fall include October 21, November 18 and December 16.*

**\* Please prayerfully consider volunteering! You can sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Church Library- or you can let Kathy Cinquina know what date you are interested in. Thanks and God bless you.**

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## Deacons Corner

The Deacons did not meet in July or August. Their next meeting is set for September 7. Lori Novotny is the Deacon for September.

Like everyone else, they have been a busy bunch, in between vacations and the like. But before regular business comes back, the Deacons are collecting donations of School Supplies for Putnam County Students to use in the 2017-2018 school year.

***Please leave your donations in the Deacons Corner of the Church Library by Sunday, August 20, 2017***

### **CAP School Supply Wish List**



\*Items are most needed

- \*Backpacks & \*Lunch Boxes
- \*3 Subject Notebooks / \*5 Subject Notebooks
- \*Subject Dividers
- \*2" Binders in Blue, Red, Black & other assorted colors
- Pencil boxes
- Pencil Cases
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Marble Composition Notebooks
- 2 Pocket Folders – assorted colors
- Pens (blue, black)
- Pencils & Erasers
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Scissors / Glue Sticks / Pencil Sharpeners
- \*Washable Markers/\*Highlighters, \*Sharpie Markers & \*Dry Erase Markers
- Reinforcements, Index Cards and Post it Notes (3x3)
- Small Post It Notes, Tissues

*There is also a great need for Gift Cards to assist with the purchase of school clothing and shoes (suggested stores):*

Kohl's ,Old Navy, Forever 21, Kmart, Sears, Primark, Walmart, Gift Certificates for Haircuts

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## Session's Sessions

by Ken Lott



Rev. Luanne Panarotti, acting moderator of Session and our liaison to the Hudson River Presbytery Commission on Ministry. Rev. Panarotti is Pastor at Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church in Staatsburg.

“Summertime, and the living is easy ....” Some churches go into hibernation in the summer, what with vacations and other diversions. Not the Session of First Presbyterian Church in Mahopac! We had two formal meetings in June and July and several ad hoc discussions on various topics of great import.

The search for a new pastor has been the top priority of Session since the resignation of Rev. Cheryl Montgomery on May 11. Rev. Luanne Panarotti has been serving as the panel’s acting moderator and providing guidance to the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee.

One special meeting this summer was held to conduct a telephone interview with Rev. Glen Reichelderfer of Madison, Wisconsin and to invite him and his wife to come to Mahopac to visit the church as a candidate for the position of interim pastor. (See page 3)

Besides looking for a pastor, the Session has been involved in making ready a place for the pastor to live. The Manse renovation project had stalled, with no work performed for several months and numerous remedies have been explored and adopted and work has resumed. (See page 4)

In other business:

- Session approved a request from local cellist Renaat Pinchas to use the sanctuary for a concert on September 24. (See page 15)
- Discussed the disposition of funds in the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund
- Approved funds needed for maintenance and tuning of the church’s pipe organ
- Discussed a recent requirement by the Town of Carmel for installation of a sophisticated fire alarm system.

Session is scheduled to meet again in late August.

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## Music and Worship

Our Music Director, Peter Frost, is moving to an Episcopal church in Chappaqua after August 20 and we wish him well. We placed the following advertisement in "Hudson Happenings," from the Hudson River Presbytery:

"We need someone to coordinate and plan the whole music program of the congregation, to be proficient at playing a piano and pipe organ music appropriate to each service of worship and special services, and to coordinate and direct the adult, youth and bell choirs. Yes, it is a paid position, accountable to the pastor. Yes, there are other requirements and we would love to discuss them with you.

If you or someone you know is interested, please call our church office at 845-625-2365 or email [presby411@verizon.net](mailto:presby411@verizon.net).

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Cellist Reenat Pinchas will appear in concert at our church on September 24. She has performed at our church several times before and her concerts have always been well attended and acclaimed by her audiences.



A graduate of Mahopac High School, Reenat first appeared as a soloist with local orchestras at age ten and has concertized worldwide ever since. She has accompanied world class artists such as Placido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman, Renee Fleming, Wynton Marsalis and played under the baton of NY Philharmonic's Lorin Maazel, Gustavo Dudamel, Kent Nagano, and more.

Passionate about chamber music, Ms. Pinchas has been a member of numerous ensembles exploring music from the baroque to the contemporary. She has always used her talent to better serve underdeveloped communities around the world by spreading a positive message through classical music.

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# Pray For Others

by Ken Lott

Our church secretary Kathy Cinquina and I spend hours – days – collecting and editing the material in each month's newsletter. The last page(s) have usually contained Prayer Requests but Kathy and I have decided that publishing those requests may infringe on the privacy of individuals for one reason or another. So we decided to stop publishing them ... not stop taking them, just not putting them in the newsletter.

Kathy will continue to put together a list of prayer requests and print it as an insert in the bulletin we use for church services. Of course you can still request prayers for someone who needs them, either during worship or by calling or e-mailing Kathy. And if prayers are answered, please let Kathy know that as well.

I have long had a recurring thought that requesting a prayer is not the same as praying. It is not the end of the process. We have to actually pray. And not just for specific adversities. We are exhorted to pray for others - including our country's leaders, our authorities at work and elsewhere, our church leaders, our co-workers, friends, and family.

[1 Timothy 2:1-5](#) says, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

When you hear a prayer in church, you may think, "I can't pray that fluently." When praying, do not worry about how your prayer is phrased. Your communication to God should be just as you would talk to your friends or family. Pray for others whenever you think of them (at work, home, doing chores, in the car). Soon, praying for others will become a part of your daily life!

"Seven days without prayer make one weak." See you in church.

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