

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2019 / Issue 18

An Invitation to Consider

Each of the four new proposed New Jersey presbyteries, reduced from seven (*if approved next year*), are recommended to have:

- ❖ A full-time presbytery leader.
- ❖ Ecclesiastical officers as required by G-3.0104.
- ❖ Excellent support staff who, among other roles, will resource COMs and assist congregations reach their greatest missional potential
- ❖ Diversity of congregational sizes.
- ❖ Diversity of community type (urban, suburban, rural).
- ❖ Cultural (racial-ethnic) diversity.
- ❖ Access to interstate highways, the Garden State Parkway, or the New Jersey Turnpike for convenient transportation to presbytery meetings.
- ❖ As much as possible, keeping entire New Jersey counties within a single presbytery, to facilitate cooperation and witness with government agencies and NGOs that are structured on the county level.
- ❖ A sufficient number of congregations and members to provide sustainable financial support (through per capita and mission giving) and other resources (volunteer pool, etc.) to provide for a thriving life together.

Sacred Places

You may have noticed some improvements to our church building. There is a biblical and theological case for why cosmetic improvements are essential to our mission. Duncan Stroik is an architect and teaches architecture at Notre Dame. He has some interesting insights about the importance of sacred spaces and religious buildings. What he defines as sacred architecture is: “buildings meant to honor God and serve his people”. That’s not just chapels, churches and monasteries. It’s also school buildings, hospitals and other places which have some religious purpose. Can we or can we not help the faithful draw closer to Christ through these buildings?

Most everyone recalls Jesus’ instruction promising that wherever two or more are gathered, he is present. (Matt. 18:20). No building is excluded from that promise. However, some places are more amiable to worship and communion with God than other places. Buildings have the potential to disrupt or enrich our worship. Of course, this comes with the stipulation that God’s spirit can be alive in the least attractive meeting places and that some of the most stunning church buildings can be places of spiritual decay. But still, it’s not a bad idea to pay attention to the way our church is maintained. It matters more than we think.

This sacred space, our church, has been dedicated to God to honor him and serve his people. This was our forebearers intent at the laying of the cornerstone. We are blessed and privileged recipients of their actions. We are also called to maintain its “sacredness”, for we are standing on holy ground.

Be alarmed by the words holy and holiness. We are talking about being dedicated to God, for God’s purposes. Meaning, we should not approach God’s church without thought. How we maintain this building is just as important as how we conduct ourselves in this building. I periodically question myself regarding this sacred space: Am I doing my best? Am I giving my best? Best being my “first fruits”, not what’s leftover or somebody else’s best.

The Old Testament Prophet Haggai has an interesting passage in the first chapter of his writings. ⁷ Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. ⁸ Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. ⁹ You have looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? says the Lord of hosts. Because my house lies in ruins, while all of you hurry off to your own houses.” Chief take away from here: ***Let’s make His house a priority.***

JUNE 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Mark your calendar!

Contact Us

Townley Presbyterian Church

829 Salem Road

Union NJ 07083

(908) 686-1028

Email:

townleychurch@yahoo.com

Website:

Townleychurch.org

Like us on Facebook:

Townley Church

JUNE DATES

Prayer: Mondays 4:00-5:00 PM

June 2

- Seventh Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion
- Family and Friends Day

June 5

- Bible Study 6:30 PM

June 8

- Roadhouse 7:30 PM

June 9

- Day of Pentecost // Delaire Nursing Home Visitation 2:00 PM

June 12

- Bible Study 6:30 PM

June 16

- Trinity Sunday- Fathers' Day

June 19

- Bible Study 6:00 PM // Session Meeting 7:30 PM

June 23

- Second Sunday after Pentecost // Book Club

June 26

- Movie Night – 6:30 PM

June 30

- Third Sunday after Pentecost

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

829 Salem Road

Union NJ 07083