

Newsletter September/October 2012



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings and peace of Christ to all.....

As much as we would like to deny it, the garden has the look of Autumn, the morning air has a snap to it and back to school shopping has begun! Once again, we gratefully move into a new season of life.

Grateful? Yes.

Grateful because we have lived to see this day. Grateful for the earth's bounty and the hard work of farmers who have allowed us to put up food for winter. Grateful that the changing season teaches us something.... every time.

The presence of God in the waning light is different from that of Spring. It is a budding, buzzing presence when earth awakens; the Autumn Presence is more peaceful and deep, reflective and surrendering, much like the wisdom of the old. We take stock of how the harvest of the year has been. Assess what we did right (or not!) in the garden; what produced good crops and what didn't.

I believe it is a good time to engage in Spiritual assessment as well. It is a good time to ask: What is working to produce peace and kindness in my life? What is not? What needs to "die off" in order for new Life to grow? What is the harvest of my prayer life? Does my faith lead me to follow the Gospel? Does my belief lead me to care for the poor, the homeless, the sick as Jesus commanded? Does it lead me to compassion and cooperation? Respect and regard even for those who disagree with us?

Without peace in our own hearts, there can be no peace in the world; the Christ has told us that we are all one.

Let us take stock of how our beliefs and our faith bring us closer together, and how we can increase that harvest. As the leaves fall, let us surrender the destructive, selfish parts of our lives which separate us. Let us always and every day... give thanks.

Blessings! *Susan*

Steeple work is finished!

All those who love the Stephentown Federated Church are grateful for friends far and near who supported this repair.

As the bell rings on Sunday morning, everyone can know that the entire community has a part in the joyful sound.

Blessings!



The contract part of the steeple project is completed and has been paid for, \$16,500.00. The bottom part of the steeple and front face of the church are partially done. Josh had to pull off the job to go and attend another project but should be back shortly to finish the extras. At this point the extra costs should run about \$1500 to \$2000 to complete. We have enough in the savings account to cover that. Also the mien's group has some funds they said they would donate if needed.

Our next project is the upgrade and replacement of the florescent lights in the hall. There is a reimbursement from the people who did the audit which will help with the costs. The new lights are more energy efficient. Also the labor to install can be done in house.

SonShiners

Meetings:

September 16, 2012, 8:00am – Finalize Italian Dinner

October 21, 2012, 8:00am – Plan Election Day Luncheon

November 18, 2012, 8:00am – Reflect & plan funds distribution

December 16, 2012, 8:00am – Cookie Swap – Bring 2 dozen cookies to share.

All are welcome. Bring a dish to share

September 22, 2012 –

You are cordially invited to join us at the Stephentown Federated Church for



“A Taste of Italy”



All you can eat – Italian dinner to include: Lasagna, Penne with red sauce and Fettuccine Alfredo, salad, bread, beverage and desert

September 22, 2012 at 6:00pm

Free Will Offering

Come early and stay late to hear “Brian & Friends” entertain us with music in the church.

Donations and volunteers are still needed.

November 6, 2012 – Election Day Luncheon 11:00am – 3:00pm

Now that Summer is over it would be nice to see some old faces again. You are all missed.

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month October thru June. We re-start our meetings in October. Join us for good food and great fellowship. The 2012 schedule is:

October 7, 2012..... All Church Breakfast – everyone is invited to kick off the new season of monthly breakfasts and fellowship. 8:00 am

November 4, 2012..... Breakfast at 8:00am

December 2, 2012..... Breakfast at 8:00am

Choir



September 18 6:30 pm begins Choir Rehearsals. All are welcome to join. Bev has bought some new music for us to learn and use to enhance the services.

SAVE THE



DATE

Classical Piano Recital, Sunday November 18th

Sarah Masterson

Time to be announced

Sarah is a classical pianist based in Willimantic, Connecticut, and is currently trying to build a performance schedule of free recitals in the New England area.

In 2011, she completed my doctorate in piano performance at the University of Connecticut. At UConn, she performed as part of the UConn Wind Ensemble, the UConn Chamber Music Festival, and the William Benton Museum of Art's RecitalsPlus series. As winner of the graduate division in UConn's 2009 concerto competition, she performed Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor with the UConn orchestra, and my piano trio performed as part of the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts classics series in 2010.

As a classical musician, Sarah finds that small, free public recitals provide a uniquely rewarding experience for both the performer and audience. She enjoys the opportunity to introduce new audiences to classical repertoire and interact with audience members after the recitals.

Sarah's current recital program includes such works as Mozart's Rondo in A minor, Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy, and arrangements of folk songs by twentieth-century American composers. Sarah would welcome the chance to share this music with our congregation and community. More information and recordings from my past recitals are available on my website at www.sarahmastersonpianist.com.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR 2012

SEPTEMBER

September 2 9:30 am **Worship Service- Communion**
September 9 9:00 am *pick up choir*
9:30 am **Worship Service- Hymn Sing**
September 10 9:00 am **Prayer Group**
September 11 9 am **Heavenly Quilters**
September 16 8:00 am **SonShiners Breakfast**
9:00 am *pick up choir*
9:30 am **Worship Service- Healing**
September 17 9:00 am **Prayer Group**
September 18 9:00 am **Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm **Choir rehearsal**
September 22 **SonShiner's Italian Dinner – Free Will Offering 6pm**
September 23 9:00 am **Choir**
9:30 am **Worship Service- Contemporary**
September 24 9:00 am **Prayer Group**
7:00 pm **General Committee**
September 25 9:00 am **Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm **Choir Rehearsal**
September 30 9:00 am **Choir**
9:30 am **Worship Service**

OCTOBER

October 1 9:00 am **Prayer Group**
October 2 9:00 am **Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm **Choir Rehearsal**
October 7 8:00 am **Men's Breakfast – All Church Breakfast**
9:00 am **Choir**
9:30 am **Worship Service- Communion**
October 8 9:00 am **Prayer Group**
October 9 9:00 am **Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm **Choir Rehearsal**

October 14 **9:00 am Choir**
9:30 am Worship Service – Hymn Sing

October 15 **9:00 am Prayer Group**

October 16 **9:00 am Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

October 21 **8:00 am SonShiners Breakfast**
9:00 am Choir
9:30 am Worship Service - Healing

October 22 **9:00 am Prayer Group**
7:00 pm General Committee

October 23 **9:00 am Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

October 28 **9:00 am Choir**
9:30 am Worship Service - Contemporary

October 29 **9:00 am Prayer Group**

October 30 **9:00 am Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

NOVEMBER

November 4 **8:00 am Men's Breakfast**
9:00 am Choir
9:30 am Worship Service - Communion

November 5 **9:00 am Prayer Group**

November 6 **9:00 am Heavenly Quilters**
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

November 11 **9:00 am Choir**
9:30 am Worship Service – Hymn Sing

Everyone is invited to the coffee hour following our worship services on Sunday. Check the sign-up sheet for signing up for coffee hour goodies if you wish to do a Sunday.

