



**NEWSLETTER – MAY, 2012 –
PASTOR’S MESSAGE**

Greetings and peace to all,

The earth is greening. This year it hardly stopped being green, as the winter was so mild, but in May there is just a different softness to the air. Budding trees send forth their scent, peepers are heard in the land and the welcome rain nourishes shoots that venture forth.

In winter, I can watch traffic from my window, but in summer I cannot see Garfield Road because of all the wild greenery by the creek. I can judge how advanced the growing season is by the amount of privacy I have here!

Spring is always a time of hope, of new growth. Here at Stephentown Federated Church we are also experiencing new things. We are blessed to have the experience and talent of Joanne Hennig and June Ross, who have offered to get our Sunday School on track with a wonderful curriculum which they used at Brainard.

We were given a huge gift of talent, treasure, TIME and hope with the work that Keith Westfall did with Darcy Heating on the furnace. They replaced all the electronics and many other parts; this should make the furnace usable for some time.

I will be starting a Scripture and Prayer Group on Monday, June 4th at 10AM. We will meet on the FIRST and THIRD Mondays of the month to start. If there is interest enough, we can meet more frequently. All those who are available at that time of day are welcome, including our Stay-at-home-Moms. Come for coffee and conversation, scripture study and support. Your little ones are welcome.

I also hope to begin an evening study/prayer group later on, if there is interest.

Let us reach out to friends in the community who would enjoy such meetings and let them know they are welcome. Also, please invite those who are hurting to attend any Sunday Church Services, especially on the Third Sunday, when we have our Healing Service. There has been much loss in the community, and our congregation is known for welcome and a warm embrace.

Hope, healing, growth and new life. What our God and the Christ are all about. May we experience them internally as well as outside.

Blessings of God’s Spring to you!

Lovingly,

Susan

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

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

May 6, 2012..... Breakfast at 8:00am
May 12, 2012..... Church Cemetery and Grounds work day.
Details to follow
June 3, 2012..... All Church Breakfast – Everyone come and
join us for a really big breakfast meal! This is the
last breakfast meeting 'till fall! 8:00am
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

The officers for the group are elected in November. This year's leaders are: President-Larry Eckhardt, Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears, and Men's Rep to the General Committee-Malcolm Beal

At our May 6th breakfast meeting, we hope to discuss how we might contribute some of our funds acquired over the past winter to projects of importance to the church community. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship.

Church grounds workday is scheduled for May 12th at 9:00am. We will begin by sprucing up the Presbyterian Cemetery and move down to the church to pick up and repair from the winter. Everyone is invited to help in any way you feel comfortable. Refreshments are always appreciated if you'd like to help in that endeavor. Call Larry Eckhardt (733-5137) or Ted Bears (728-9326) with any questions.

On Sunday June 3rd, we will have our last planned breakfast meeting until the fall. Everyone is invited to attend for the summer send-off!! The next breakfast will be on October 7th to begin our new season of events and meals.



CHOIR

For the month of May choir will *not* be meeting on Tuesday nights. Instead they will meet Sunday am at 8:50am, Choir will wear robes to the end of May.

In June there will be a pick up choir each Sunday. For the Summer months there is a sheet posted for those that want to participate in special music. The sheet is on the bulletin board in Pierce Hall. Many thanks to all. Bev

SonShiners

Meeting dates:

May 20th at 8:00am Bring a dish to share

June 17th Father's Day – No meeting

July 15th at 8:00am Bring a dish to share

The Vendor Day Fundraiser was a huge success and a fun day of fellowship. The turnout was great. We thank all who helped with food, work and purchasing goods from our vendors. We made about \$400.

Fundraiser:

July 28th (Community Tag Sale at Gardner's Field 9am) Garden/Bake Sale and Silent Auction. Barbara is chairing the event. If you have any questions, please contact her (babst3@verizon.net). Also, let her know if you have or plan on procuring a gift basket or gift certificate for the Silent Auction. Please keep the values under \$35.00

Garden produce, baked goods will be needed. A sign up sheet will be posted.

STEEPLE REPAIR

Hopefully the work will begin in June.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Joanne Hennig has agreed to be the representative for Christian Education on Gen. Commt.

BLESSINGS

On May 6th, Anthony Edmund Williams will be baptized. He is the son of Joann & Roy Williams and brother of big sister Desiree. We are blessed to have him become a part of our church family.



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small

quilts that Susan gives to those she visits and would benefit from the love and comfort they bring. Many thanks to the quilters for their generosity.

HEAVENLY QUILTERS

The Heavenly Quilters who meet in Pierce Hall on Tuesdays send a message of gratitude for the use of the hall. Their latest donation of a quilt was to the Stephentown Library. The fundraiser brought in \$1200.00 to the library. They have blessed us with

As most of you know, Easter morning brought a surprise when we got to church. The Sanctuary furnace had a blow back leaving a sooty mess in Piece Hall. The insurance company brought in a company to clean Pierce Hall. There was a \$1000 deductible which the insurance company deduced from the payment \$1631.61 for painting of the Food Pantry Room which the cleaning company could not do. So we have \$631.61.

After a lot of work put in by Keith Westfall and Bill Darcy the Sanctuary furnace seems to be working properly. Many thanks to Keith for all the work and babysitting of the furnace.

FURNACE REPLACEMENT

General Committee is looking at replacing the furnace in Pierce Hall first. They are looking into getting an energy audit to help decide the best way to go. Fundraising is continuing.

A New Program of Service

1 Peter 4:10-11 reads, “as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace”. Service to our fellow man is part of the definition of living as a Christian. Jesus brought healing and Christian service to the life of his followers and asked us to do the same.

Members of the Stephentown Federated Church are excellent at serving members of our congregation and the greater faith community. We are now striving to put those acts of service into a more coordinated program that will assist us to better meet the existing needs in our community.

This program, will be part of the ministry of the church and will support Reverend Susan in her work as well as offer new health related efforts. Some of the efforts proposed are as follows;

- A regularly meeting prayer circle
- A program to support the pastor in visits to homes, hospitals and nursing homes
- A program that will assist people in need such as picking up prescriptions or groceries, providing a meal or two to an ill or injured person
- A program of communication by mail (cards and notes) to individuals who are in mourning, ill, suffering difficulty or who should be recognized for a particular achievement
- An Health Promotion program that offers current, useful information and is appropriate to age and education levels of the target audience
- A program to identify those who are ill or in need of assistance of this group

This program will only work if we have individuals willing to get involved and help others. Please understand that by volunteering you are committing only to the type and amount of help you feel comfortable giving. If you have an interest in helping with any of these activities please respond to jatwater@taconic.net.



THE PRAYER LIST IS UNDERGOING AN OVERHAUL!

IT HAS BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE I'VE TAKEN THIS TASK OVER, AND I CAN'T RECALL REMOVING MANY NAMES. WHILE THIS IS REALLY NICE KNOWING ALL THESE FOLKS HAVE BEEN IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ON A REGULAR BASIS, SPACE HAS BECOME AN ISSUE. VERY SOON THE NAMES WILL BE SO SMALL, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO READ THEM. HERE'S A PREVIEW OF THE NEW LOOK AND HOW IT WILL WORK (SUBJECT TO CHANGE AGAIN, OF COURSE, UNTIL PERFECTED!).

Prayer List

- this section will include those people we pray for each week
- it will clear at the end of each month
 - o if you would like to keep someone on, you need to let me know by the last Sunday of the month
 - o if that opportunity is missed, you can always raise them in prayer again the following Sunday

Long Term Prayer Requests

- for those with long term illnesses & injuries

In memory

- this is where we will put bereavements
- . . . **Always in our prayers:**
- here is where we will list those such as our farmers, EMS workers, etc. . . .

**** Safe Travel to All ****

It is my hope that this will keep this part of our bulletin current . . . thank you for your help in this . . . Joanne Hennig



COFFEE HOUR

Thank you to all who have taken a Sunday to provide

food for the coffee hour after church or helped in setting up or clean up. We thank Ted for always “putting” the coffee on. We hope more of you will help by signing up on the sheet in Pierce Hall. Barb Terpening will be coordinating. Please contact her at babst3@verizon.net or 527-0182 if you have any questions or want to know if a week is open.

May - June Calendar 2012

- May 6 *Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.*
Choir Rehearsal 8:50 a.m.
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. – Communion- Baptism
- May 8 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- May 12 Clean up of Presbyterian Cemetery and Church Grounds 9 a.m.
- May 13 Choir Rehearsal 8:50 a.m.
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. – Hymn Sing – Mothers Day
- May 15 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- May 19 Stephentown Library – use of Pierce Hall
- May 20 *SonShiners Breakfast 8 a.m.*
Choir Rehearsal 8:50 a.m.
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. – Healing
- May 22 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- May 27 Choir Rehearsal 8:50 a.m.
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
- May 28 General Committee Meeting 7 p.m.
- May 29 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- June 3 *Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. – All Welcome*
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. – Communion
- June 5 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- June 10 Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. – Hymn Sing
- June 12 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- June 17 *No SonShiner's Breakfast*
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. – Healing – Father's Day
- June 19 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- June 24 Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
- June 25 General Committee Meeting 7 p.m.
- June 26 Heavenly Quilters 9 a.m. in Pierce Hall
- July 1 Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. - Communion