

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings and blessings!

This has been quite a summer. It was beautiful and bountiful, yet also full of natural occurrences which filled us with awe and some dread. Our brothers and sisters in neighboring counties have suffered many losses due to flooding; we at SFC helped by collecting supplies which were delivered by Rev. Susan and Andy to Schoharie county.

It is at times like these that we are reminded of our connection to all of our fellow beings on the planet. We need one another, whether we live nearby or are at a distance; we are important to one another, whether or not we have ever met. We at SFC are blessed to be in a position to help, and help we do. (Please see our web site to look at our local ministries.) My love and undying thanks go out to all who are part of our mission here in Stephentown and afar.

Those of you who know me understand that money (or more correctly, talking about money) is hugely uncomfortable for me. One of the things I love about the congregation at Stephentown is that we live, like most of our contemporaries, "paycheck to paycheck." We also live within our means; we have no debt.

When the roof needed replacement, we saved and gratefully received donations until we had enough to do it. Then the steeple needed fixing, and once again stewardship and generous people have helped. We have "almost" enough to do it, and have decided to allow work to start before winter sets in, because it is too dangerous to leave it.

Now ... It seems the furnace is on its last legs. In an area where it can be 40 degrees below zero in the winter, this is an issue. Even though we are careful, the cost of fuel and an unreliable furnace are hurting our ability to make ends meet.

Therefore, I feel I must put on my "big girl pants" and talk about money, even though I hate that!

If you feel you can help at all, we would greatly appreciate it. I know that some people hesitate to give money to a church, fearing that it will go toward administrative costs or policies with which they disagree. I promise you that your donation can be earmarked for either "steeple fund" or "furnace fund," and we will honor that designation. I personally vouch for the integrity of our General Committee (governing board) on that. Simply write the fund of your choice (or "repairs and maintenance") on the memo section of your check. That way, if the

steeple fund gets satisfied, we can put the money toward the furnace. Just know that your donation will be used for church repairs and maintenance if that is your desire.

Trusting your love and generosity, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As we go forward, (and we always do,) I believe that the compassion of God and the healing of the Christ go with us all. As I sit in prayer each morning and night, you are in that sacred space with me. Some of you I know; some I do not know in person..... yet you are a part of my life and mission, and I give thanks for you.

Loving blessings, *Susan*

SONSHINERS

I am very excited about our Taste of Italy Dinner this Saturday, September 24th at 6pm- *free will offering*. We have had great response for donations and participation. We'll be serving lasagna, fettuccini, and ziti. We have 2 auction items that were never claimed that we will auction off at the supper along with selling more of Nancy Beal's knitted items. I love the fish cloths and would recommend them to anyone who wants to liven up the dishwashing experience with a little fun, or buy some for the young children in your life for wash cloths.

Just a reminder, we will be holding an Election Day Luncheon again this year on November 8th. We will post a list of items needed for donation along with a volunteer sheet. We had great turnout last year and it would be great to see this again. We will final organize this on October 16th at our breakfast meeting at 8am.

We will also have our Breakfasts on November 20th (Give Thanks) and December 18th (Cookie Swap).

It has been a great year and it would be nice to see some old faces again.

**Kate Beach
President**

STEEPLE FUND PROJECT

The steeple fund project was scheduled to be started this September but Irene and the following rainstorm has delayed the project until next spring. The contractor lost time on other projects and the weather will soon turn too cold to paint which is part of the job to be done. Currently the money raised for the project is at \$15,600.00. Projected need for the job is about \$17,000.00. This could change somewhat if something hidden turns up that needs to be dealt with. People have been great in the contributions they have made to this fund. Don French, Treasurer.

MISSION WORK

On Saturday, September 10th, Revs. Susan and Andy took a truckload of donations to the flood victims in Schoharie County. Support came from all over our area, and was very generous! Rob Russ and Andrea Fariello delivered the goods, food and Hannaford Gift Cards to those in the local shelters.

In the photos: Rob is receiving the donations from Rev. Susan, and the remnants of a home destroyed by the flood.



CHOIR

Hi Everyone,

We will have a pick up choir Sept 25 at 9 am before the service. If after this next week everything remains the way it is now I will be home for the first part of October. Regular rehearsals begin Tuesday Oct 4 at 6:30 pm. If you know anyone who wants to sing with us, please feel free to invite them. Thanks for your understanding and prayers. God bless.

Bev

On Sunday evening, September 11, we held a Service of Remembrance for the community. There was candle lighting, naming of those we remember, and special music.



Men's Breakfast Group

The men's breakfast group is a non-denominational group meeting the first Sunday of the month, October through June, and has been active for over 27 years.



Its main function is to bring the community together for a breakfast once a month and discuss everything from national to community affairs, to create a positive attitude towards our community and support charitable efforts in the community.

We have supported, through donations, and non-profit organizations and groups in our community and worldwide. We also serve the best breakfast in town, 8:00 am on the 1st Sunday of the month, prepared entirely by our group associates.

We look forward to seeing you at our next breakfast!

The next Men's Breakfast is Oct 2, 2011 at 8 a.m. It is a church wide breakfast. Hope to see you then.

Join us for coffee hour after church. We have been and Joanne providing us with goodies each week by young and old!!!!



blessed with Janet that are enjoyed

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER CALENDAR 2011

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|---------------------|---|
| September 24 | 6:00 pm <i>Taste of Italy Dinner</i> |
| September 25 | 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 Worship Service |
| September 26 | 7:00 <i>General Committee</i> |
| October 2 | 8:00 am <i>Men's Breakfast</i> – all welcome 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service-communion |
| October 4 | 6:30 Choir rehearsal |
| October 9 | 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service |
| October 11 | 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal |
| October 12 | 6:30 pm Worship/ Tech committee |
| October 16 | 8:00 am <i>SonShiners Group Breakfast</i> 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service |
| October 18 | 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal |
| October 23 | 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service |
| October 24 | 7:00 pm <i>General Committee</i> |
| October 25 | 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal |
| October 26 | 6:30 pm Worship/ Tech committee |
| October 30 | 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service |
| November 6 | 8:00 am <i>Men's Breakfast</i> 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service-communion |
| November 8 | Election Day Luncheon |
| November 8 | 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal |
| November 13 | 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service |
| November 15 | 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal |
| November 20 | 8:00 am <i>SonShiners Group Breakfast</i> 9:00 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service |
| November 28 | 7:00 pm <i>General Committee</i> |

Everyone is invited to the coffee hour following our worship services on Sunday.