



## Pastor's Message

Newsletter July – August 2012

Greetings and blessings of Summer to all!

I don't know about you, but this time of year makes me feel that the entire earth is humming. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds flit about; plants (and weeds!) seem to grow before my eyes. There is an energy in the air which seems to encourage life and growth. Many of our members work long days to co-create with God, farming the land to produce the luscious food which feeds us all. I am in awe of them. "Lazy" days of Summer? I think not!

While many churches scale back activity in the summer, we are growing new things, too! Our "Monday Morning Quarterback" group was started as a discussion forum for the Sunday scriptures. We take the readings from the previous day and go in different directions from the sermon, or go more deeply into how they are meaningful in our lives. It is a lively, honest and diverse group, and I feel blessed by the insights shared. We meet at 10AM on Mondays in Pierce Hall; all are welcome!

An evening group will begin soon for those who are interested.

The Sunday School curriculum is working well under the joyful leadership of Joanne Hennig who is working with Shannon to bring the Gospel alive for the children. The children now join the congregation after the adult sermon for their own time and are with us for prayer, communion and healing services.

Also, the Federated Church continues to be a sanctuary for those in the community who are hurting, those in need of physical, emotional or spiritual nourishment. I am reminded of the story of loaves and fishes, where Jesus feeds the multitudes from very little. We are a small congregation, but the Spirit is alive and well.... And we always seem to have enough time, love and generosity to go around. I am grateful to all.

Yes, life is abundant; the church is "humming" with activity; and we grow as a community every day. We are blessed in this time.

I pray that all of you experience the blessings of Summer in your own lives, taking time to hear the "hum" of God's energy in your own lives. Listen closely; you will hear it.



Loving Blessings, *Susan*



## Christian Ed

by Joanne Hennig

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14*

. . .and come they have. Christian Ed has adopted a new program for the summer entitled "One Room Sunday School." We have had at least 4 children each week attend Sunday School. Shannon is being trained in this new curriculum and is doing wonderfully. She's learning how to teach one little idea in a few little ways in a very short amount of time!

During the month of June we learned about "In the Beginning" – we learned about creation, and how we are special because we are made in God's image. We also learned a little about Noah and that there is a season for everything. The children made and examined the items their "Creation Box" regularly AND they even decorated it!

In July, we will be teaching the Stories of God's People – Gideon, Ruth & Naomi, King Josiah, Queen Esther, and Jonah. We also are beginning to have the children attend regular church this month. Susan will be doing a "Children's Time" and the children will stay to sing and pray.

For August, the lessons will teach the children that the Bible is a Book of God's Word. They will learn that we can praise God all the time; and that He provides lessons for us in His Word on how to live. This children will also learn that God is there when we need Him, all we have to do is ask and also how to love.

We are in a "test" mode with our curriculums at this time. There is another out there we would like to try. Who knows where our journey will take us!

A special thanks to June Ross who purchased the summer curriculum for us.

## SonShiners



**Breakfast July 15<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00am – Bring a dish to share. We need to finalize for Bake/Garden/Silent Auction on July 28<sup>th</sup>

**Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** – Bake/Garden/Silent Auction at Gardner's field (Community Tag Sale) 8am Set-up, 9am start–3pm. Please sign up to donate your time even for an hour or two. Many hands make light work. Please let Barb Terpening ([babst3@verizon.net](mailto:babst3@verizon.net)) know of any silent auction items so she can make up the bid sheet. We would appreciate baked items in single serving size. Any garden items/cut flowers you would like to share would also be appreciated.

**Breakfast August 19<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00am – Bring a dish to share. We need to plan our dinner on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Breakfast September 16<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00am – Bring a dish to share. We will be finalizing plans for our dinner September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Italian Dinner. More information to come.

BAKE SALE

## Worship Committee



### 1- BULLETINS -

During the Summer - July and August - we will continue to use the screen on the 2nd and 4th Sundays as usual.

On those Sundays, we will NOT have a bulletin. (We will still have hymn numbers on the board for those who like to use the Hymnal for the music.)

We hope that this will give Joanne Henning a break; she has given us gorgeous, wonderful bulletins all year, and deserves a bit of a rest!

It will also help us save paper and use the screen better.

### 2- EMAIL

On the Sundays when there is no bulletin, an email will go out containing the prayer list, upcoming events and the offering amount from Sunday.

### 3- MUSIC DURING ANTHEM TIME

Since the choir is on break, we encourage everyone to share some music with the congregation during the Anthem time.

This could happen in several different ways:

- Share your own talent of singing or playing an instrument
- Ask someone you know to join us for a service and provide music (a friend, child or grandchild???)
- Bring a favorite piece of music on CD which we can play.
- Any other ideas you have are welcome!

Please let Susan or Bev know what week is good for you, and we will put you on the schedule. Also check on the music sign-up sheet on the sanctuary doors.

# The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

*The Men's Group is on break for the summer – see you in the fall.*

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



## Energy Audit

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> Ted Bears, Bev Westfall, Doug Mayan and Don French met with Davis Mead of L&S Energy Services. L&S does energy audits for NYSERTA.

Mr. Mead indicated 7 areas that he felt should be addressed. Two (programmable thermostats, clean/tune furnaces) we are already doing.

Upgrade hall florescent ceiling lights from T-12's to T-8's. There is a \$300.00 NYSERTA incentive for this.

Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact florescent lights. We are doing this as the old incandescent bulbs burn out.

Install LED exit signs.

Replace windows with energy efficient ones. Seal around frames to stop air infiltration.

Replace wooden double door at entrance to hall on the west side with energy efficient air tight doors.

The side walls in the hall were not addressed. This is a major source of heat loss. We are exploring removing the paneling and insulating the outside walls and then re-applying the paneling. This should stop most of the air infiltration which is a major source of heat loss.

The full report is available for all to look at. See Ted Bears or Don French if you are interested.  
Submitted by Donald I. French, Jr., Treasurer

## JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CALENDAR 2012

### JULY

July 8 9:30 am Worship service & Communion

July 3 9:00 am Prayer Group

July 15 9:30 am Worship service & Hymn Sing

July 16 9:00 am Prayer Group

July 17 9:00 am Heavenly Quilters

July 22 9:30 am Worship Service Healing

July 23 9:00 am Prayer Group

July 23 7:00 pm General Committee meeting

July 24 9:00 am Heavenly Quilters

**July 28 9am-3pm Bake/Garden/Silent Auction at Gardner's field (Community Tag Sale)**

July 29 9:30 am Worship service then Field Trip to Susan's Labyrinth

July 31 9:00 am Heavenly Quilters

### AUGUST

August 5 9:30 am worship service- Communion

August 6 9:00 am Prayer Group

August 12 9:30 am Worship Service- Hymn Sing

August 13 9:00 am Prayer Group

August 19 8:00 am Sonshiners

9:30 am Worship Service- Healing

August 20 9:00 am Prayer Group

August 26 9:30 am Worship Service- Contemporary

August 27 9:00 am Prayer Group

August 27 7:00 pm General Committee

### 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

9:00 am *pick up choir*

9:30 am Worship Service- Healing

September 17 9:00 am Prayer Group

September 18 9 am Heavenly Quilters

September 18 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal

September 22 SonShiner's Italian Dinner – Free Will Offering

September 23 9:30 am Worship Service- contemporary

September 24 9:00 am Prayer Group

September 24 7:00 pm General Committee

September 25 9 am Heavenly Quilters

September 25 6:30 pm choir Rehearsal

September 26 9:30 am Worship Service

**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 on the sanctuary doors if you wish to do a Sunday.**