

Pastor's Message - January, 2013

Greetings and Blessings on this New Year's Day!

I pray that the love of God, the Hope of Emmanuel and the Spirit of New Life abide with you today.

It is not really mid-winter yet (we have barely entered the formal season) but it is definitely bleak here in the Northeast. I do love winter, with its silence and stark landscape devoid of distractions. The night sky is incredible with bright stars and planets; its plainness is a relief after all the chaos of Christmas lights.

This year was most certainly a different kind of Christmas for many of us. Personal, community, national and world events gave an aura of loss to the season and our Christmas Eve service reflected that. For those who were not there, it is difficult to describe the beauty of the musical choices sung by the choir; they were perfect. As a community we acknowledged our need for hope and how the exquisite example of the Christ's coming into a dark world provides that. Privately I wondered if some would be disappointed that the service was somewhat subdued and honest about the pain of the world rather than all about "Joy, Joy, Joy."

I trusted God's grace, Bev Westfall's musical gift and my own call to sense, embrace and give voice to the life of this Valley as it is lived at the moment. The church was full and included many from our area who are not members of the church; indeed there were people of all faiths there. What an honor it is that so many know they can find sanctuary in this holy place!

The message of journey, ("Are we there yet?") and of Hope in a dark, fearful world brought us together in our hearts and has gently led us into the New Year. We all know that we – as a people and as a planet – are not "there yet." The Kingdom of God is still being built. The realm of God is a work in progress.

The bleak landscape outside my window will eventually be green again. The water of the Kinderhook will sing again. The Labyrinth will be a distraction of color and shapes and birds and bunnies. In its own way, the change of that landscape also holds the Promise.

God is present. God is present in the Christ, and in the winters and the springs and the summers of our lives. Always.

Therefore, even in the bleakest winter, we have hope. We believe that in holding fast to the Gospel we can bring peace and unity to our world.... One season, one person, one community at a time.

May the New Year bring your hopes to fruition.

May the blessing of a hopeful heart live in each of us.

I ask this in the name of God's Love.....

Rev. Susan

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 27th after church.

We'll share soup and bread and then convene our meeting.

The proposed budget is here for your information as well as the Profit/Loss for 2012.



PROPOSED BUDGET				
STEPHENTOWN FEDERATED CHURCH				
	2013	2013	2012	2012
1. PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY				
2. PASTOR'S SALARY	\$14,820.00	285/week	\$14,300.00	
3. CAR ALLOWANCE	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	
4. HEALTH INSURANCE	\$0.00		\$0.00	
5. PENSION/BENEFITS	\$0.00		\$0.00	
6. BOOK ALLOWANCE	\$500.00		\$500.00	
7. CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$400.00		\$400.00	
8. SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET	\$1,134.00		\$1,094.00	
9		\$19,354.00		\$18,794.00
10. PROGRAM AND DENOMINATION				
11. CHOIR MUSIC	\$800.00		\$800.00	
12. SUPPLY PASTORS	\$800.00		\$800.00	
13. SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHRISTIAN ED.	\$300.00		\$300.00	
14. TECKNOWLEDGE/LICENSES	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	
15. ORGANIST MILEAGE/SUPPLIES	\$1,400.00		\$1,400.00	
16. NURSERY SERVICE	\$1,040.00		\$1,040.00	
17. METHODIST APPORTIONMENT	\$3,346.86	293.86 is Retiree	\$3,269.00	
18. PRESBYTERIAN APPORTIONMENT	\$1,305.00	Plus Ben.Of300/yr	\$1,218.00	
19. ELDERS/CONFERENCE EXPENSE	\$600.00		\$600.00	
20. METHODIST RETIRE (CON. CHARG)	\$273.36		\$0.00	
21		\$10,865.22		\$10,427.00
22. ADMINISTRATION				

23. OFF.SUP/NEWSLETTER/XEROX	\$800.00		\$800.00	
24. CHURCH SUPPLIES non-office	\$600.00		\$1,000.00	
25. NURSERY SUPPLIES	\$100.00		\$100.00	
26		\$1,500.00		\$1,900.00
27. BUILDINGS EXPENSES				
28. ELECTRICITY-CHURCH	\$1,000.00	924 last year	\$1,300.00	
29. ELECTRICITY-MANSE	\$400.00		\$400.00	
30. TOTAL FUEL OIL	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
31. ISP internet/phone	\$500.00	352 in '12	\$1,300.00	
32. WATER SOFTENER	\$0.00		\$0.00	
33. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$0.00		\$0.00	
34		\$11,900.00		\$13,000.00
35. BUILDING MAINTENANCE				
36. CHURCH	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
37. MANSE	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	
38. EQUIPMENT	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	
39		\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
40				
41. INSURANCE	\$3,000.00		\$2,800.00	
42. CUSTODIAN & TRASH COLLECTION	\$4,500.00	trash 341 in '12	\$4,500.00	
43		\$7,500.00		\$7,300.00
44				
45. BUDGET TOTALS	\$61,119.22	\$61,119.22	\$61,421.00	61421.00

SonShiners

Meetings are open to all women in the church and the community. We meet on the third Sunday of the month. Bring a dish to share.

January 20th 8:00am – Planning for 2013

Come with any ideas and suggestions as to what you want to do this year.

February 17th 8:00am

March 17th 8:00am



The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month until June. Join us for good food and great fellowship. The 2013 schedule is:

- February 3, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am Finalize plans for Dinner event**
- February 23, 2013..... Church family and friends Turkey Dinner 6:00pm**
- March 3, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- March 31, 2013..... Easter Sunday – Continental breakfast after Sunrise service**
- April 7, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- May 5, 2013..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- May 11, 2013..... Church Cemetery and Grounds work day. Details to follow**
- June 2, 2013..... All Church Breakfast – Everyone come and join us for a really big breakfast meal! This is the last breakfast meeting 'till fall! 8:00am**

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

If you are a facebook junkie, check out our website Stephentown Federated Church for updated spiritual ideas.



The Big Event

The Men's Group Presents

The Annual Church Family and Friends



TURKEY DINNER

Saturday February 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

At the Church Hall

This dinner has no ticket sales, just a free-will offering. Break the mid-winter blues and get out and enjoy the company of family and friends of our church community and the community at large.

We will need volunteers to cook turkeys, bake pies, prepare food and help clean-up after dinner. Let Larry, Ted, Malcolm or Paul know in what capacity you might be able to help. All hands on deck!!! Mark your calendar!!!

OTHER NEWS

The new kitchen floor is being installed January 24-26th. Work is being done on the kitchen cabinets. We are looking at replacing the windows in Pierce Hall for better insulation.



Choir Report

We welcome two new Choir members John and Taffy to our group. If there is anyone else that would like to join us, please let us know. We are always open to new members. During the next three months we have folks going away and other people covering. I appreciate the work that each of the members do, especially when folks are absent and people fill in. Thanks to Helen for taking choir rehearsal while Barb and I are away. Safe travel to all our folks on their travels.

Worship Committee To God Be the Glory

I especially want to thank Helen for not only getting our two contemporary services together for two times each month but in addition to that learning a new computer. Our old computer is still working but can no longer be upgraded and it is full. A new computer has been donated to the church by the Westfall Family in memory of Bea Mooney - Bev's Mom. We are also trying to add a new feature which plays the music along with the words on the screen. It does not just magically appear. Thanks Helen for learning this new technology so we have more flexibility in our service.

If you are interested in helping us with the computer please let us know. We need some back up people that are interested in using the computer. Many thanks.

Our committee as a whole continues to meet each month to help provide direction to our congregation and church life together based on the input of everyone.

Recurring Weekly Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	10:00 a.m. Faith Sharing	9:00 a.m. Heavenly Quilters	6:00 p.m. AA Mtg.			9:00- 11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
9:30 a.m. Worship Service	7:00 p.m. Gen Com Jan 28 Feb 25 Mar 25	6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal				Feb 23 6:00 p.m. Family and Friends Dinner
10:30 a.m. coffee hour						

Other Dates to Remember

Annual Meeting : Jan 27th: following church...all welcome

Men's Breakfast: 8 a.m. Feb. 3, March 3

SonShiner's Breakfast: 8 a.m. Feb. 18, March 18

Each month: 1st Sunday---Communion

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing

3rd Sunday---Healing

2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary service

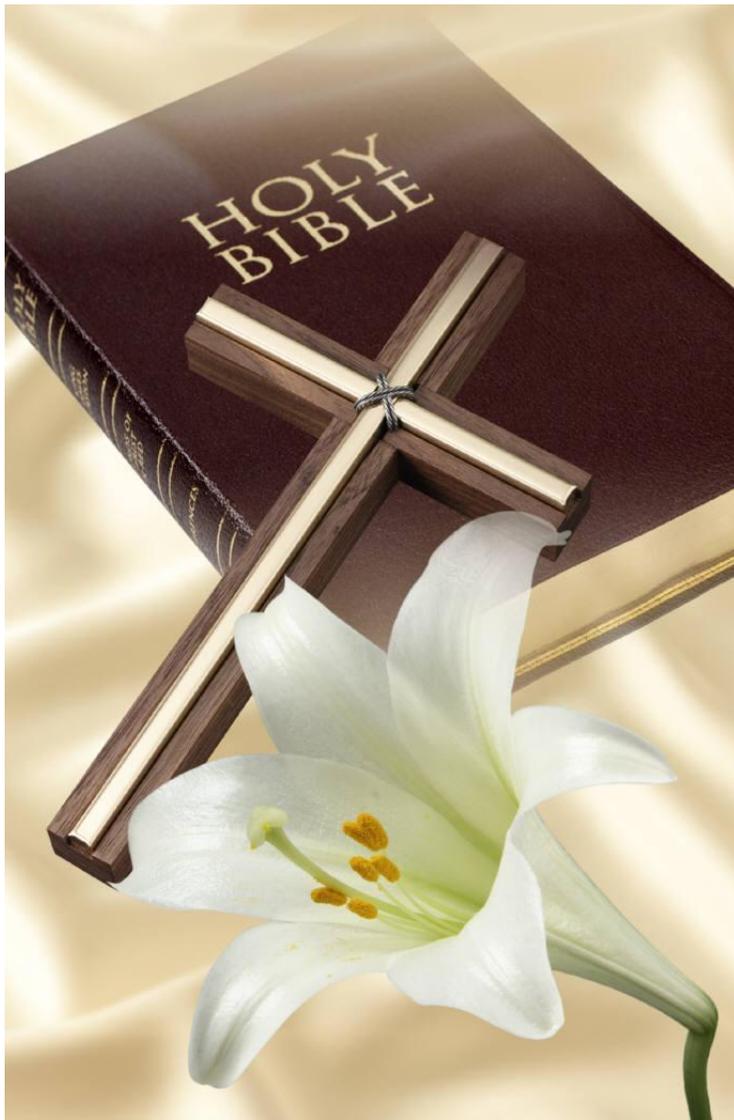
5th Sunday---surprise!

SOUper BOWL SUNDAY – Feb 3rd

Bring your can goods in for the Food Pantry

The Annual Church Family and Friends Turkey Dinner

Saturday February 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.



Lent begins Feb 17th

Palm Sunday: March 24th

Easter: March 31st: ...6:30 a.m. Sunrise

Service at Garfield Cemetery

...If raining we meet at the church

...Easter Breakfast follows the Sunrise

Service in Pierce Hall

...Easter Service: 9:30 a.m.

Watch for news about ordering Easter

Lilies in the Church Bulletin or the

website in early March.