

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Greetings and blessings of the New Year to you all!

As I write this, the temperature is low and the snow drifts are high; pretty typical for January and February. Many of my contemporaries have retired to warmer climes. When they ask why I still live here, I respond, "For the other 10 months of the year!"

Even if it were an option, I don't think I would ever want to leave this area. A visit south is always nice, but the seasons always bring their own beauty, even in the austere landscape we have now.

This has been a year of changing seasons for many of us in many ways. The Circle of the year has been reflected in births, deaths, transitions into adulthood, new homes. In my own life, as of June all three of my children are settled with people they love in places they love doing work they love. A Mom couldn't ask for any more than that, and it also raises new possibilities - and questions. Some questions are mundane, like, "What do I do with all the stuff they left behind!?" Others are not so simple: "Do I need all this space? (Especially once I get rid of the stuff?)"

And speaking of stuff.... this year has given me the opportunity to purge a lot of my own. As I do, I remember where and when I acquired something. Decide if I really need it. Wonder if someone else could use it more than I. Handmade gifts are a no-brainer. Ditto things given by children or grands. They stay. Cartons and cartons and cartons of books are easy. The Library can either use them or sell them so they can continue to provide the exquisite services they give to this community. Off they go. Some other things take thought. Give away? Maybe not yet.

It is the same for our Spiritual lives. What old pre-conceived notions, what old resentments or desires can we pack up? What is worth keeping, dusting off and re-appreciating? What is needing more internal space?

In order to consider a renewed, deeper relationship with God, we have to make room for it to grow. Clean out old "stuff."

Right now I give thanks and re-commit to ministry, make room in my heart for God's loving voice and.... admit that I will NEVER fit in that dress again... off it goes.

Wishing you laughter and God's peace in 2014.

Rev. Susan

SonShiners



Bring a dish to share and join the fellowship at our Meetings:

January 19th 8:00am – Organize for 2014.

Determine what fundraising programs we want to continue or add.

Bring your ideas and suggestions.

February 16th 8:00am

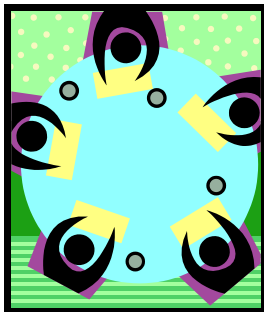
March 16th 8:00am



Souper Bowl Sunday

your food and funds.

On February 2nd, help us support our local food pantry with



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place following church on January 19th around 11:30 a.m. This meeting is open to everyone who attends church and we welcome all!

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month until June. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2014 schedule is:

- January 5, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am Start the New Year with the group!**
- February 2, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am Will the Groundhog see his shadow? Make plans for Big, Family and Friends Dinner**
- February 22, 2014..... Church family and friends Turkey Dinner 6:00pm**
- March 2, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- April 6, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- April 20, 2014..... Easter Sunday – Continental breakfast after Sunrise service**
- May 4, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
- June 1, 2014..... All Church Breakfast – Everyone come and join us for a really big breakfast meal! This is the last breakfast meeting 'till fall! 8:00am**
- July, August and September. Summer recess – no scheduled meetings.**
- October 5, 2014..... Start the new breakfast season with All Church Breakfast! Come one, come all! 8:00am**
- November 2, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00am Election of Officers**
- December 7, 2014.....Breakfast at 8:00am**

The officers for the group were elected at the November 3rd meeting. President-Larry Eckhardt, Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears, Men's Rep to the General Committee-Malcolm Beal

The Big Event

The Men's Group Presents

The 11th Annual Church Family and Friends

TURKEY DINNER

Saturday February 22, 2014 at 6:00 pm

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!!!



Choir

Choir continues to meet on Tuesday nights. The weather has played havoc with us the last month or so. We are now starting music for the Lenten /Easter season. If you have an interest in singing, come and join us.

Sound System

We are now moving forward on gathering information on a new sound system. There is a possibility of getting grants from both the Methodists and Presbyterians. We are looking into all the choices before any decision is made. We plan to visit churches to see how their sound systems function. Members on the committee are Rev. Susan, Barb Terpening, Tom Foody and Bev Westfall. If anyone else would like to join us, speak to any one of us for info.

January-February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	10:00 a.m. Faith Sharing Group	9:00 a.m. Heavenly Quilters		10 a.m. Yoga		9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
Annual Mtg. Jan 19 th 11:30am Souper Bowl Feb 2 nd	7:00 p.m. Gen Com Jan 20 Feb 24 6p.m.Council/ Session Mtg.	6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. AA			Feb 22 6:00 p.m. Family and Friends Turkey Dinner

Other Dates to Remember

SonShiner's Breakfast: 8 a.m...January 19

February 16

Annual Meeting – January 19th 11:30am

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing

3rd Sunday---Healing

2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary Service

5th Sunday---Surprise!

Men's Group: 8 a.m.....February 2nd, March 2nd

Souper Bowl Sunday – February 2nd

Family and Friends Turkey Dinner.....Feb 22nd 6 p.m.