

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - Autumn, 2014

"For the beauty of the Earth, for the glory of the skies..... "

As I write this, it is a crystal-clear day with a brilliant blue sky above the changing leaves. The earth's bounty lies prepared in the freezer; it will provide warmth to body and spirit during the dark days of winter.

It occurs to me that Autumn is really a time of trust. We know that the changing leaves are a sign of the dying season, and we trust that the cycle will bring us again to new life in the Spring.

My garden always provides the stuff of prayer. I choose to leave many plants standing so the birds can feast on the seeds. Fallen leaves provide protection for the roots, tender plants will hibernate in the house and saved seeds are kept hopefully aside.

I notice how the arc of the sun throws shadows at a different angle now and feel the chill in the air, so I know I must also prepare my house for winter.

Yet whatever preparations I make, it is always an act of trust that there will be another growing season, another harvest, another opportunity to marvel at the dynamic and dependable earth.

It is an act of trust in our Creator God to make it all happen.

I realize that I have never doubted that Winter would follow Autumn, Spring would follow Winter or that day would follow night.

Because God is dependable.

Always dependable. Always.

That is why my prayer today has been to repeat:

"God of All, to thee I raise this, my hymn of grateful praise!"

May we always notice, trust, be grateful and praise.

Blessings!

Susan



PRAYER GROUP

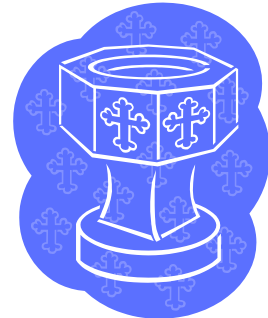
The Monday Morning Prayer Group will resume meeting on Monday, October 6th at 10 AM in Pierce Hall. We will focus on the Scripture of the week. All are welcome!

CALL FOR LECTORS

Beginning in October, Rev. Andy will meet with those who would like to read Scripture during Worship. Anyone who would like to read, please sign up in Pierce Hall or tell Rev. Susan.

WELCOME TO CECILIA!

We will welcome Cecilia Grace Schultz to the congregation on Sunday, October 12th at our 9:30 Worship.



Reports! Reports, Reports!

Just a reminder, that I need reports for the annual meeting that occurs in January. I would like to have these by Dec. 15th so I can keep my promise of having them out for people to read before the annual meeting. It takes time to get everything together.

Many thanks.

Bev Westfall

SonShiners

Meetings:

October 19th 8am

November 16th 8am

December 21st 8am

Bring a dish to share!

Donation and Volunteer lists are posted on the board in Pierce Hall for the Italian Dinner. Please consider helping in any way you can. As soon as the Italian Dinner is over we will be looking for donations and volunteers to work on the Election Day Luncheon.

Events:

*Bring Family & Friends and join us at the
Stephentown Federated Church*

1513 Garfield Road - Stephentown, NY

For our Fourth Annual Italian Dinner

*It's an "all you can eat" Italian dinner to include:
Lasagna, Penne with Marinara sauce, or Fettuccine Alfredo
Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Beverage and Dessert*

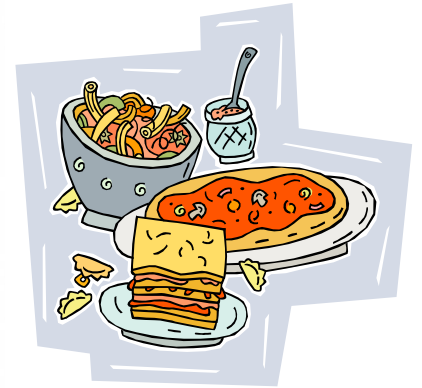
October 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

All are invited!

For information call: Kate Beach at 733-6988 or

e-mail at kate.beach@atlantisequipment.com

Free Will Offering



November 4th Election Day Luncheon

11am - 2pm

**Come before or after you vote and enjoy
lunch at the church! Remember we have
pies for dessert!**

To God Be the Glory

Come and Sing!

Choir has started for the fall. We invite anyone that would like to sing with us to stay after church on Sunday for rehearsal. We have a new routine for the fall. We are sponsoring a Christmas Community Cantata which will be held the weekend of Dec 12/13, 2014. The Immaculate Conception choir is joining us as well. It is open to anyone that would like to participate. Our rehearsals for the cantata will be Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30.



Calendar for Music

**Sundays from 10:45 to noon...our regular rehearsals for our choir
Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 rehearsal for community cantata**

**Sunday, Nov 2, 2014, 3 – 5pm Christ Church United Methodist,
35 State Street, Troy - *Festival of Music & Chocolate* The choir
hopes to participate so come support us. *See enclosed flyer.***

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 remainder of the 2014 schedule is:

**October 5, 2014...Start the new breakfast season with
All Church Breakfast! Come one, come all!
8:00am**

November 2, 2014..... Breakfast at 8:00 am Election of Officers

December 7, 2014.....Breakfast at 8:00 am

**The officers for the group are: President-Larry Eckhardt,
Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears, Men's Rep to the
General Committee-Malcolm Beal**

TRIENNIAL MEETING

On Monday, Sept. 22nd, the General Committee, Presbyterian Session and Methodist Counsel met with the Triennial Visitors from the Albany Presbytery.

The General Committee met at 6 PM to conduct regular business, then we broke for dinner of soups, breads, veggies and fruit, followed by our meeting with the visitors (Who, by the way, loved our food!)

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate the growth, new programs and community love we have at the Federated Church.

**It became clear that we are happy, grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and doing quite well, thank you very much! :-)
We have not yet received the "official" report from the Triennial Team, but those from the church who were present felt that we articulated well who we are, what we do and how our ministry touches everyone in the Valley.**

When they asked to speak to the Pastor and the Committee separately, we agreed. I sang the praises of this church; told the visitor how happy and blessed I feel to serve here. From what I hear, the Committee also expressed that same love for me to the other visitor. (Thank you!)

We do not function the same way as regular Presbyterian churches do Nor as regular, big urban churches do. It seemed that they "got that." I will keep you posted once we receive the official report from the Presbytery.

I remain full of gratitude to serve this congregation which is an example to all of energy, faith and love.

Susan

October/November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45-noon Choir Rehearsal	10:00 am Monday Morning Prayer Group	9:30 am Heavenly Quilters <u>Nov 4</u> 11:00 – 2:00 Election Day Luncheon		10:00 am Yoga		9:00-1100 am Food Pantry
	7:00 pm Gen Com Oct 27 Nov 24	6:30-8:30pm Cantata Rehearsal	6:00 pm AA			<u>Oct 18</u> 6 pm Italian Dinner Sonshiners All Invited

Other Dates to Remember

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing

3rd Sunday---Healing

2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary service

5th Sunday---Surprise!