

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - SPRING, 2015

Dear Friends,

Even naming this a "Spring" issue feels like either a huge act of faith or an exercise in comedy! I choose to believe.

In the bleak winter of January, it is a good time to take inventory, look back at 2014 and open our hearts to a new vision. As part of that, we hold our Annual Meeting. The meeting will be done by the time you read this, but usually we review the last year and look at budgets and choose those who will serve in leadership for the next.

I thank those who have served and welcome those who are willing to step into service.

As I review the Annual Reports, I am grateful to see how many goals have been met over the last few years.... and I don't mean physical improvements to the buildings, although those are significant! (New roof, repaired steeple, new lights for the choir, new windows and improved kitchen in Pierce Hall.)

However, more importantly, our prayer life is deep, rich and holy. Worship is enriched by children who now grace our sanctuary and serve as Acolytes. The Music Ministry always is the best in the area.

The vision I had of the model of church when I arrived has been realized: it is now outer-focused; we serve and support the community in many new ways. Pierce Hall is now used almost every day of the week, housing the Food Pantry, blessed by the creative and generous members of the Heavenly Quilters, hosting a prayer group and a Spiritual Direction Group and welcoming many who are working to better their lives through the difficult and spiritual journey of AA.

Our worship life on Sunday fuels and feeds our service, but is not the end. What happens on Sunday is only about ten-percent of the life of the church. We are alive, and we are bringing the love of Christ to the community.

I now wonder.... where next? What is the next vision?

This week's scripture is about Samuel hearing God's call in the night. Saying "Here I am, Lord!"

For those at a distance, I would ask your prayers that we can continue to hear the voice of God and continue to be a vibrant, prayerful, involved part of the larger community in whatever ways possible. I also ask that - if you have any ideas or know of underserved people in the community - please let me know. We have many wonderful people willing to help and we will do our best.

In closing, I do want to express my profound gratitude to those who responded with love and generosity to our plea for donations toward a new sound system. We will meet our goal! Our contract is for the work to begin in March, and hopefully be done in time for Easter.

This, too, serves the community. People who wished to attend church but were discouraged because they could not hear can now be a part of our community prayer and worship. Thank you all... you will be hearing more. We will

send a letter with all the names we have for the plaque, just to be sure that there are no mistakes. We also hope to have a dedication celebration with special music to thank everyone.

As always, I give thanks for all of you and for the opportunity to serve here. You nourish my heart and soul.... and I am honored to be part of this loving community.

Loving, hopeful blessings,

Rev. Susan



The Big Event

The Men's Group Presents

The 13th Annual Church Family and Friends

TURKEY DINNER

Saturday February 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

At the Church Hall

You are cordially invited to join your church family and friends for fellowship and a delicious Turkey meal with all the trimmings!!! Mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, peas and carrots, and our famous **Homemade pies!!**



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!!! Invite your neighbors and Friends!!!!

SonShiners

Meetings:

February 15th 8am

March 15th 8am (at Ioka Valley Farm)

April 19th 8am

**Even though this is a Women's group
all genders are welcome.**



Don't forget the Men will be looking for pies for the annual Turkey Dinner.

At our January meeting we elected: Kate Beach, President; Barb Terpening, Vice-Pres.; Joanne Hennig, Sec.; Pat Coon, Treasurer; Libby Osganian, Gen. Commt. Rep.

Events Planned for this year

Spring Cleaning of Church (all hands on deck) March 21st 10am until done – bring a lunch and cleaning tools.

July - Garden-Bake Sale/Silent Auction @ Community Tag Sale - Route 22, Stephentown.

September 26th Ice Cream Social/Craft-Tag Sale 10am - 3 pm @ Ioka Valley Farm, Hancock, MA – Rain Date: Oct. 3rd

October 17th Italian Dinner 5:30 pm

November 3rd Election Day Luncheon

Ideas are always welcome!

Stephentown Federated Church Officers 2014

Members of Presbyterian USA Session

Larry Eckhardt (clerk of Session) (2018)

Malcolm Beal (2018)

Marge Feathers (2016)

Larry Eckhardt (2016)

Nancy Beal (2017)

Ted Bears (2017)

Members of United Methodist Church Council

Janet Atwater (2018)

Bev Westfall – Chair (2018)

Kate Beach (2016)

Don Leab (2016)

Donna Densing (2017)

Betty Hartnett (2017)

Members of the General Committee

Susan Schultz, Pastor

Bev Westfall, Secretary

Libby Osganian, (SonShiners)

Larry Eckhardt (Session)

Malcolm Beal (Men's Breakfast)

Bev Westfall (Choir)

Kate Beach (Council)

Don French, Treasurer,

Nancy Beal (Session) Chair person

Don Leab (Council)

Ted Bears (Facility Chair)

Joann Hennig (Christian Ed)

Nominating Committee

Malcolm Beal, Presb.

Heather Eckhardt, Presb.

Mary French, Meth.

Kate Beach, Meth.

Donna Densing, Meth.(names to change at GC meeting)

Pastor-Parish Committee

Larry Eckhardt, Chair (Presb.)
Patricia Coon (Presb.)
Bev Westfall (Meth.)
Vacancy (Meth.)

Son Shiners

Kate Beach, Pres.
Barbara Terpening, Vice Pres.
Joanne Hennig, Secretary
Pat Coon, Treasurer

Men's Breakfast Group

Larry Eckhardt, Chair
Richard Terpening, Scribe
Ted Bears, Treasurer

Worship/Tech Committee

Rev. Susan
Bev Westfall, chair
Pat Coon
Tom Foody
Barb Terpening
Laurelyn Mayen
June Ross
Helen Wallbank

Denominational Treasurers

Pat Coon – Presbyterian Barbara Terpening - Methodist



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 2015 schedule is:

- February 1, 2015..... Breakfast at 8:00am
More Discussion & Planning for Turkey Dinner**
 - February 21, 2015..... Church Family and Friends Turkey Dinner 6:00pm**
 - March 1, 2015..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
 - April 5, 2015..... Easter Sunday – Continental breakfast after Sunrise Service**
 - May 3, 2015..... Breakfast at 8:00am**
 - June 7, 2015..... 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 at the November 2nd meeting. President- Larry Eckhardt, Secretary- Rich Terpening, Treasurer-Ted Bears, Men's Rep to the General Committee-Malcolm Beal**

Sound System Update

We started over a year ago to plan for a new sound system for our sanctuary. We needed \$10,739.50. To date we have raised \$7565 our SonShiners have pledged another \$900. So, that gives us a total of \$8465.00. This means we have only \$2274.50 to go! We have applied for a grant through Presbytery. But that at the most would be \$1000 or could be nothing.

We are looking to complete this fundraising by Mar 7, 2015 So....if you haven't had a chance to contribute to our new sound system it is not too late. You can use the form here to send it to the church. Special thanks to all, who have contributed to our new sound system.



**AND
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

We are excited about our new sound system and we would appreciate your help in making this happen. Please use the following form should you wish to contribute to our new sound system.

In Memory/in Honor of

.....

By.....

Please send to:

Stephentown Federated Church

Box 10, Stepentown, New York, 12168



Choir

Choir has returned after a very busy fall. We welcome Arlene to our group. There is always an open invitation to anyone who would like to come and sing with us. We are planning for Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter.

Along the way we will have a couple of substitute accompanists for Sunday morning. Karen Webster and Cindy Schaefer have agreed to come and play for us in February and March 1, 2015. Special thanks for their talent and willingness to share.





ORDER FORM FOR EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to place your orders for Easter lilies \$12.00 and/or spring bulbs \$12.00 in memory of your

Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	Specify your choice of Lily \$12.00 or spring bulbs \$ 12.00
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:	

loved ones. **We are asking that you have your order in by March 15th.**

You can send your check and order form to Jessica Rontey at 1391 Garfield Rd. Stephentown, NY 12168.

Please make checks out to Angel's Trumpet Flowers. The lilies and bulbs will be placed on the altar in time for our Easter service.

Total number of lilies and/or bulbs ordered _____

Your total amount enclosed \$ _____

Send inquiries to Jessica Rontey at jlynn1016@yahoo.com

JAN, FEB, MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour March 29 - Palm Sunday April 5 - Sunrise Service 6:30am Easter Service 9:30am	10:00 a.m. Monday Morning Prayer Group	9:30 a.m. Heavenly Quilters			Good Friday April 3 Noon- 3pm	9:00- 11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
	7:00 p.m. Gen Com 4th week of month	Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m. AA			Turkey Dinner Feb 21 6 p.m.

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing

3rd Sunday---Healing

2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary Service

5th Sunday---Surprise!

Friends & Family Turkey Dinner Feb 21 at 6 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY - March 29 -

Special Worship service of readings and music at 9:30 AM

GOOD FRIDAY - April 3rd -

Church will be open with music and slide presentation of the Passion - 12N -3 PM

EASTER SUNDAY - April 5th -

Sunrise Service @ 6:30 AM (I looked it up, and sunrise is at 6:34.)

followed with Continental breakfast at church

REGULAR WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION AT 9:30 AM

March 15th last date to order Flowers for Easter