

## **PASTOR'S LETTER –**

**SUMMER, 2014**

**With Easter's cries of Alleluia still in the breeze, we turn to face Summer once again. It seems that once the change-over to green begins, it happens almost overnight! I notice people out jogging, walking, riding bicycles, starting to work in the garden, planting, weeding and just enjoying being outdoors. The farmers in our midst begin the ritual of dawn-to-dusk work in the fields, tending to God's earth, praying for favorable weather and feeding us all.**

**It is also a time for "greening" our hearts and souls.**

**I love that the flowing water of the Kinderhook always reminds me of life flowing on (and by), a symbol of Creation and our precious lifespan.**

**The breeze is a reminder of the Spirit, which touches us all and can refresh as well as challenge us.**

**Often the birds' twitters sound like chattering; what are they saying to one another? It is fun to wonder.**

**Of course, all the diversity in my garden astounds me every year. Those plants which do well - those that don't, and the gorgeous chaos of color and shape working together to present a beautiful whole. Like the Body of Christ, and humankind, the garden needs all of these different types, living side-by-side and sharing the soil to be whole.**

**May the delights to our senses seep into our hearts this summer; may they lead us to prayerful gratitude to God for such a beautiful world. May they lead us to be grateful to the Christ for the promise of Resurrection, and to the Spirit of God for all good things that enliven us.**

**Perhaps this can be the Summer of Gratitude.**

**Blessings of warmth, abundance and Peace to you!**

*Rev. Susan*

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**We hope to hold Vacation Bible school this summer in August.**

**Please watch the Eastwick Press;**

**our website - <http://www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org>;**

**Facebook; and Church Bulletins for more information as it unfolds.**

## **Choir**

**Our last Sunday for formal choir is Memorial Day weekend. During the month of June we will have a pick up choir. Anyone who would like to sing with us please meet in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. Sundays. For July and August we encourage special music. There will be a sign up sheet for those months if you know anyone that would like to participate in the music for our services.**



**Special thanks to the choir for their dedication in Tuesday night rehearsals and Sunday morning services. Also special to Barb Terpening and Helen Wallbank for always being there to step in to keep things flowing smoothly. I hope all of you have a wonderful break from the regular routine.**

## **Worship Committee**

**Our Contemporary screen services continue over the summer every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Special thanks to Helen and Arlene for their special ministry.**

**We continue to have problems with our sound system. We are currently waiting for a quote on a new system from Chip Winnard from Wood's Brothers. We hope to solve this problem soon.**

## **Come Join Us!**

**Shannan Vance-Campo, Transitional Presbyter, will be visiting [July 13th](#). She takes the place of Cass Shaw. It would be nice if we had a big group that Sunday to meet her. Susan will provide a cold soup and crackers/chips for after church. Shannon will also be coming over to see the Labyrinth, and anyone from church is invited to come that day, as well.**

## **Position open!**

**Attention all presbyterians! We have an opening for clerk of Session for Presbytery. Anyone interested in serving please let Rev Susan know. The requirements for the job include the following: meet quarterly, take attendance, any actions in the affirmative recorded, note by date celebrations of the sacraments, i.e. baptism and Lord's supper, and marriages and deaths, additions/subtractions of members and the submitting of the statistical report to the Presbytery in January . Our Moderator will help you with that.**

## **Sonshiners**

**A well diverse group of talented women (formally known as Women's Breakfast Group) meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 8am in Pierce Hall for a potluck breakfast and fellowship. Even though this is a Women's group all genders are welcome.**



**In 2008 the SonShiners became a very active group and are always looking for ways to better serve our Church and Church community.**

**July 26, 2014 9-3 Gardner's Field**

**Garden/Bake sale and Silent Auction (9-1) at Community Tag Sale – We are looking for garden and bake good donations. Please have them to Gardner's Field by 9 am. Or Pierce Hall by 8:30 am. Most sales are made early in the day so we need your donations early. Libby, Georgi and Barb are working on getting donations for the Silent Auction. Please come out and support us. You'll love the auction items. Contact Barb 527-0182 or babst3@verizon with your questions.**

**September 20, 2014 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND FLEA MARKET 10-3**

**IOKA VALLEY FARM [www.iokavalleyfarm.com](http://www.iokavalleyfarm.com) Rain or Shine**

***Ice Cream Social:* dishes of ice cream, ice cream sundaes, banana splits for sale**

***Yard/Craft Sale:* Rent a 10 X10 space for \$15 No food vendors.**

**Contact Kate @ 518-935-8536 or Barb @ 518-527-0182 for spaces.**

**Sell your crafts, collectable or treasures. Bring your own table. The church will have their own craft table – we are looking for donations.**

**October 18, 2014 Annual Italian Dinner**

**November 4, 2014 Election Day Luncheon 11:00am – 2:00pm**

**Mark your calendars so you won't miss any of these great events!**

## **Triennial Visit in the Fall**

### **Future event**

**Our Triennial visit with the Presbytery will be in the fall. This occurs every three years. We are waiting for the specific date. Anyone in the congregation is invited to attend, but members of Council, Session and General Committee are urged to be present.**

## **WORKERS WANTED**

**There are a couple of jobs that need to be done at the church. We need to power wash and stain the handicap ramp. The church needs some scraping and painting done outside mainly from the windows down. If you have the time to help, contact Ted Bears 728-9326.**

## **The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group**

**Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month starting again in October. Join us for good food and great fellowship. The remainder of the 2014 schedule is:**

**July, August and September. Summer recess – no scheduled meetings at this time.**

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

**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**

**June, July, August 2014**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>pick up</b> <b>choir in</b> <b>June</b>  <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <b>service</b>  <b>10:30</b> <b>a.m.</b> <b>coffee</b> <b>hour</b>		<b>9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Heavenly</b> <b>Quilters</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>  <b>AA</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>  <b>Yoga</b>		<b>9:00 - 11:00</b> <b>a.m.</b>  <b>Food Pantry</b>  <b>(Donations</b> <b>always</b> <b>accepted)</b>
	<b>7:00</b> <b>p.m.</b> <b>Gen</b> <b>Com</b>  <b>June 23</b>  <i><b>July</b></i> <i><b>and</b></i> <i><b>August:</b></i> <i><b>by</b></i> <i><b>email</b></i>					<b>July 26<sup>th</sup> 9-3</b>  <b>Garden/Bake</b> <b>sale &amp;</b> <b>Silent</b> <b>Auction 9-1</b>  <b>Gardner's</b> <b>Field</b>

## Other Dates to Remember

**July 13<sup>th</sup> : Shannon Vance-Campo, Transitional Presbyter will visit us**

**SonShiner's Breakfast: 8 a.m...none in June-Father's Day**

**....July 20**

**.....August 17**

**Everyone is welcome to join us for breakfast. Bring a dish to share.**

**Each month: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ---Communion**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday---Hymn Sing**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday---Healing**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday---Contemporary service**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday---surprise!**

**Garden/Bake Sale & Silent Auction...July 26**

**Vacation Bible School in August: watch for the date!**

