



November/December 2017



The Trials and Tribulations of an Old Church Building

(in other words)

What's that musty smell?

In the last months, a few people have noticed musty/dusty odors in the sanctuary. After some investigation, the problem is being caused by moisture under the church. General Committee has been discussing how to solve the moisture problems which are leading to musty smell and mold issues. This summer we hired an environmental specialist to evaluate our building and give us a report as to how we should proceed.

It came as no surprise that the largest negative environmental influence in the structure are past and current conditions in the crawlspace below the sanctuary. Armed with this knowledge, the general committee has contracted with a company to have all the water damaged and moldy materials remediated in the crawlspace. 1) All affected surfaces in crawlspace will be cleaned and sealed; 2) an anti-microbial 20 mil moisture/vapor barrier will be installed over all bare earth under the church sanctuary and secured to foundation; 3) installation of 2" foil faced, ridged closed cell foam board to all interior/exterior walls of the crawlspace. This should be complete by the end of November.

Our next step will require us to monitor the relative humidity in the sanctuary. If it does not stay low enough, we may have to install a de-humidification system in the crawlspace which will also need to be monitored. Next, we are having all occupied areas that have been in air communication (in contact) with the materials in the crawlspaces HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Arrestance) vacuumed and damp wiped with water or water plus detergent to remove all distributed dust and mold materials. During this process, the professionals will use equipment to keep the dust from relocating by means of exhaust fans and other specialized devices. Lastly, all heating equipment and ductwork will be cleaned by a qualified, professional cleaning company.

The environmental specialist also recommended that church be vacuumed regularly with a HEPA vacuum cleaner to continue to remove any possible remaining dust contaminates from the carpet and seat cushions. The SonShiners have donated a high-powered, backpack HEPA vacuum for this purpose. This new device is powerful so don't

stand idly around – it could vacuum the clothes right off your body! (Just kidding, but it is powerful!)

As you can well imagine, this will be an expensive process but a very necessary one for our church building, our church family and our health. If you can help defray some of this large expense, please support us with your donations. Mark them with “M & M Remediation” (Must and Mold) and the general committee will use these donations to offset expenses.

Many thanks from all of us serving on the General Committee,

Larry Eckhardt - Chairperson



Our Children Are In Our Prayers

Since our Child Care/Sunday School Teacher retired in June, the Worship Committee has been actively seeking a person to fill this position. To date, verbal and media advertising have been unsuccessful. It is our hope to find a member of our church family willing to assume this responsibility. If you are so inclined or know of someone, please alert a member of the Worship Committee. Under the current law, the person filling this position must meet the Safe Sanctuary minimum standards set forth by both the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches which include applications, references, screening, interviews, and training. In addition, a “two adult rule” has furthered hampered our search. Be assured that the Worship Committee will continue to work on this need, as youth are an extremely important part of our church life.

What you are is God’s gift to you.

What you make of yourself is your gift to God.



FOOD PANTRY

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving at church on Sunday, November 19th. We take this time to help replenish our Food Pantry. They are in need of spaghetti sauce (preferable not in glass), Soup other than tomato or chicken noodle, canned fruit, baked beans, canned tuna, canned chicken, COFFEE!, toilet paper (very popular with everyone), toothpaste, toothbrushes. Please bring your items and/or cash donations on the 19th.



ANGEL TREE

I can't believe it is time to start thinking about Christmas. About seven years ago, we started the Angel Tree program. The first year we brought a brighter Christmas to three families. Because of our church family's generosity, we were able to give to seven families.

Reverend Susan was always a big help to me. With Susan's retirement I will need your help if you want to see the program continue.

I have reached out to Jessica and Joanne for names of families in our schools. If anyone knows someone they would like to help, let me know. I would like six or seven families.

I will have the Angels ready the Sunday before Thanksgiving and would like gifts back by Dec. 17th so we can sort them. If you have any questions, let me know.

Thank you, Nancy Beal



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Our tradition is for the church family to decorate the church before the first Sunday in Advent. On Sunday, November 26th after worship service we invite everyone to help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent Season. With a lot of help, the work will go quickly. The tree needs lights and ornaments. The nativity scene, advent wreath and any other decorations you want should be set up and the pulpit and altar cloths changed to purple.



CHOIR

On Nov. 5th, our choir with a couple of members of the Immaculate Conception Church sang at the Gilead Lutheran Church for the TAUM ministry for Rensselaer County through the Methodist. We call it the "Chocolate Festival". We enjoyed some chocolate desserts after. We are currently preparing for the Advent and Christmas season. We always have room for anyone who would like to sing with us.



CHRISTMAS EVE

We welcome you to our Christmas Eve Service which begins at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, December 24, 2017. Come and enjoy the singing of the Christmas carols and celebrate the message of the birth of our Christ. Rev. Dan Daniels will lead the worship.

Rev Betsye Mowry will lead us in Sunday morning worship on December 24th at 9:30.



SONSHINERS

Election Day Luncheon Nov 7th 11:00am – 2:00pm Come join your friends and family before or after you vote.

Meetings:

November 19th 8am

December 17th 8am

January 21st 8am

Bring a dish to share.

Thank you to all who attended, donated, and helped with the Italian Dinner.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Worship Committee will be leading the Sunday morning church service on December 31st at 9:30am. The topic will be “Commitment”.

Commitment

Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality.

It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions. And the actions which speak louder than words.

It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time after time, year after year after year.

Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things.

It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.



A sensor has been installed in a lamp in the front room of the Manse. If you see it on, immediately call Ted Bears or Larry Eckhardt. It means the temperature is low and may cause freezing in the Manse. Please be our watchdogs.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held on January 21st, 2018 following the church service. Please plan to attend this important part in the life of our church. Also, those responsible for group reports please have them into Janet Atwater at: jatwater@taconic.net no later than Dec 15th if possible. I know it's not quite the end of the year, but it takes time to create the report packet for the congregation by the first Sunday of the year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS

Annual Meeting is January 21st. Please take time to think about how you might be able to help with the workload of keeping our church running so smoothly. Your gift of time is always welcome. We always need your input because it is your church. Our bylaws do state that you have to be a member of the church to serve on General Committee, Church Council, Session and Pastor-Parish. If you would like to do both, than speak to Larry Eckhardt or Bev Westfall.

The Nominating Committee is:

Malcolm Beal, Presby.; Heather Eckhardt, Presby.; Mary French, Meth.; Kate Beach, Meth.; Donna Densing, Meth.

The vacancies that are available for the 2018 year are as follows:

- **Members of Methodist Church Council...Janet Atwater... 3 year term**
- **Members of Methodist Church Council...Bev Westfall...3 year term**
- **Members of Presby. Session...vacant...3 year term**
- **Members of Presby. Session...Malcolm Beal...3 year term**

Attend at most quarterly meetings to be announced; each denominations will each elect two members to the General Committee; they shall appoint Communion Stewards; maintain the church membership records for the individual denominations; elect denominational treasurers for a one year term from each board who's function is to assist the general treasurer.

- **Pastor-Parish Committee...vacancy Presby.**

Responsibilities: Conduct an annual performance evaluation and on-going feedback, as needed, of the pastor. Identify the job responsibilities of the pastor. Listen to and resolve any problems regarding the relationship between the pastor and the congregation.

Forward issues and recommendations to the General Committee that concern the pastor. Forward issues and recommendations to other appropriate committees that may arise at or be brought to the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee.



Looking for a File Cabinet!

We are currently in need of a five drawer, fire proof file cabinet with a lock. If you can help us with this, please contact anyone on the worship committee or send a note to our church email which is: staff@stephentownfederatedchurch.org. Thank you.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are very grateful to the ministers who are currently serving our church. We feel very blessed to have Rev. Dan Daniels, Rev. Bob Lowenthal and Rev. Betsye Mowry on a regular basis during the last few months. We are currently starting on plans for the new year. Rev. Dan has agreed to continue with us in 2018. He will be preaching on the first and third Sundays and when there are five Sundays in a month he has agreed to do the 5th one for us.

Worship Committee will be doing the service on Dec. 31st at 9:30. Come and join us then as we prepare to enter the new year.



Nov/Dec Ministers

November 5 Rev Dan Daniels

November 12 Rev Bob Lowenthal

November 19 Rev Dan Daniels

November 26 Rev Betsye Mowry

December 3 Rev Dan Daniels

December 10 Rev Bob Lowenthal

December 17 Rev Dan Daniels

December 24 Morning worship... Rev Betsye Mowry

December 24 Christmas Eve... Rev Dan Daniels

December 31 Worship Committee



We are on Facebook. Love to have you comment on our page! Contact Arlene if you have events you would like posted.

HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR UPDATED BATHROOMS?

Many thanks to Laurelyn and Doug Mayen for donating the paint and their painting abilities to give the bathrooms and the wall behind the coffee pots a new coat of paint.



SA SA SA!! New curtains are up. The floors have been stripped and waxed – donated by SonShiners. Now only green cleaners are to be used on the floors – no wax products.



TREASURER

As I am off to Florida for several months, I've enlisted the help of several people. On Sundays, please offer to help Donna Densing count the offering and recorded in the notebook and make sure the money is put in the bank envelope. This should be a Presbyterian, but if no one else will do it, please help. Then be sure the notebook and bank envelope are given to Bev. Keith is going to deposit the money each week and let me know what bills need to be paid. This is the part of the job I cannot do from Florida. This has been a hard year of transitioning from a longtime treasurer to having me fill in the position. If you have a calling to do the job, please talk to someone on the nominating committee. I will help you thru the transition. Barb Terpening



Our webmaster has upgraded and formatted our church website for mobile devices. This was a donation of time on his part and we so appreciate this. Thank you Bob! You might have to refresh it to update it. Give it a try and let us know if you have any problems. Again our website is: www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org. Come and see what we are doing, what we have done and give a listen to our service from each Sunday. The picture accompanying the sermon is the picture from our Sunday bulletin.



SEARCH COMMITTEE

Search committee met with Rev. Ken Applegate, our moderator, to discuss the next step in looking for a Pastor. We have more paperwork to do. The search committee is putting together information that first has to be approved by our search committee; then it needs to be passed and approved by our General Committee; then it goes to the COM committee on Ministry Nov 16th out at Presbytery. It is our plan to meet that deadline.



This is an organ that belonged to a member of our church. They are looking for a new home for it. If you are interested please send an email to Sheila at hewittshoney@gmail.com Thank you.

This sold new for over \$15,000. Hardly used, approx 20 yrs old.

The organ is a Lowrey Premier SE30 Organ with Padded Maple Bench. This pre-owned instrument is beautiful in every way. Cabinet is a beautiful walnut. Gorgeous roll-top keeps everything protected and dust free. The Premier has an amazing 594 rhythm presets with categories such as big band and latin. Don't know what rhythm sounds good with a certain song? The Premier has 200 song setups to get you playing and sounding good right away! Other amazing features are the music rack extender, deluxe storage bench, music recorder and harmony button. Comes with owners manual, music books and storage bench. If anyone is interested, please make us an offer. No offer will be refused.

Deep 25.75

Wide 45.75

Height 43

Weight 222 lbs

The Stephentown Federated Church Men's Group

Fall - Winter 2017/2018 Schedule of Events

Please join us for breakfast – first Sunday of every month. Gather with us for good food and great fellowship. The 2017-18 schedule is:

November 5, 2017.....Breakfast at 8:00am looking forward to planning the activities of the upcoming winter season.

December 3, 2017.....Breakfast at 8:00am Begin planning for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held February 24, 2018

January 7, 2018.....Breakfast at 8:00am First meeting of the New Year. What resolutions are still intact!?!? New year, new ideas!

February 4, 2018..... Breakfast at 8:00am Finalize plans for the Annual Turkey Dinner to be held February 24, 2018

February 24, 2018.....Church Family and Friends 16th Annual Turkey Dinner
Starting at 5:00pm Watch for details in next newsletter or be on the lookout for a postcard reminder.

March 4, 2018.....Breakfast at 8:00am Plans for spring cleanup. Recap the Turkey Dinner.

April 1, 2018.....Easter Sunday. Continental Breakfast after Easter Sunrise Service.

Our last All Church breakfast was well attended by many members and friends. We really hope to see you all for the November 5th breakfast meeting.

On October 14th, we had a work crew clean up the Presbyterian Cemetery and around the manse. Then we helped set up the tables for the Italian Dinner. Ted was the lawn mower guy for the summer. The lawn was no match for Ted and the John Deere tractor. We had donated money to purchase the used riding lawn mower for the church. Ted Bears likes the replacement. Great job, Ted



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour Nov 19 Food Pantry Donations Nov 26 Hanging of the Greens – after church		9:30 a.m. Heavenly Quilters Nov 7 Election Day Luncheon 11 - 2				9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry
	7:00 p.m. Gen Com Nov. 27	7:00 p.m. Gen Com Dec. 19th	6:00 p.m. AA Search Comt. Mtg Nov 8 7:30pm	Choir 6:30 p.m. Worship Commt. Mtg Nov 9 5:30pm		

Each month: 1st Sunday ---Communion – Open to all

2nd Sunday---Hymn Sing at beginning of service

**2nd and 4th Sunday---Contemporary Service –
Visual screen used for readings and hymns**

5th Sunday – Surprise

Nov. 7th Election Day Luncheon 11 – 2
Nov. 8 Search Commt. Mtg. 7:30pm
Nov. 9th Worship Commt. Mtg. 5:30pm

Did you miss not coming to church or want to hear the sermon or the anthem again?
Check out our website to listen to them.

www.stephentownfederatedchurch.org

It is time to place your orders for poinsettias in memory of your loved ones. This year the poinsettias are \$13.00 a piece. We are asking that you have your order in by December 10th. You can send your check and order form to Jessica Rontey at 1391 Garfield Rd. Stephentown, NY 12168. **Please make checks out to Angels Trumpet Flowers.** Poinsettias will be placed on the altar in time for our Christmas Eve service.

Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:
Your name or family name(s)	In memory of:

Total number of poinsettias ordered at \$13.00 a piece _____

Your total amount enclosed \$ _____