



December 2014

***“His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 KJV***

“Star Child, earth Child, go-between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven’s lighting rod. This year, this year, let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive! Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child no one wants to know. This year, this year let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive! Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears. This year, this year let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive! Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store. This year, this year let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive! Hope-for peace Child, God’s stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine. This year, this year let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!” - (Shirley Erena Murray)

This week is the beginning of the Advent season – a season of pregnant waiting as we anticipate that most special and ordinary of births. We enter into a season where the passing of time is marked with candles, prayers, and pageants as we await and remember the indwelling of God.

Advent also marks the beginning of the Church Year, starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival” and is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. Purple is the color for Advent. The color symbolizes repentance, suggesting we examine our hearts and lives as we prepare the way for the Lord.

In the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve we reflect on the meaning of Christ’s Good News: hope, peace, joy, and love. Hope, because Christ gave us hope and we believe that good is stronger than evil. Peace, for Christ is called the “Prince of Peace” and his presence with us gives us peace day by day. Joy, for the coming of Christ brings joy to our world and that joy is ours not only at Christmas but always. Love, unconditional love is what Jesus taught and what helps us to love God and one another.

**In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Margaret Currier
518-372-9575 – church
518-688-9515 – parsonage
macnrc@yahoo.com**

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

12/7 Belinda Wagner
12/14 Clarence Mosher
12/21 Rob Currier
12/28 David Read

Sound

Don Smith
Mark Cieslak
Dave Read
Mark Cieslak

Greeters

12/7 Jodi Stark, Jaime Stark
12/14 Read family
12/21 Howie & Merry Maloy
12/28 Sue Sykes, Addie Sykes

Ushers

Sheila Holloway, Nikki Holloway
Carl & Janet Fitch
Martha Hatt, RoyAnn Rogerson
Read family

Social

12/7 Jill & Steve Wesley
12/14 RoyAnn Rogerson
Darlene St. Amour
12/21 Read family
12/28 TBA

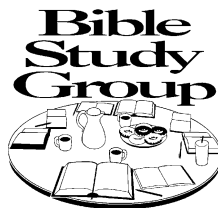
Counters

Tim Keegan, Dick Knapp
Pat Knapp, Dean Goodell

Wendy Liebl, Jill Wesley
June Pelham, Clarence Mosher

The Women's Group –will be collecting donations for the Women's Shelter till December 14. A list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board by the Loomis Room. For more details, contact Martha Hatt or Sue Sykes.

Don't forget your 2015 Pledge Cards! – We are off to a great start with our 2015 campaign and want to thank all of you who have turned in your pledge cards. We also want to thank all of you who are planning on turning in your cards and ask that you do so as soon as you are able. Having an accurate accounting of the 2015 Pledges is necessary for planning the church finances and makes it possible for SUMC to continue the ministries and programs that mean so much to all of us. Again, thank you!



Tuesday morning Bible Study – 9:30 am in the Fireside Room.

Thursday evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

SUMC IN MISSIONS

Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry – We collect for the Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry, both food and cash, during service on the **second and fourth Sundays each month**. There are baskets in each corner of the sanctuary for food donations anytime. Cash will allow the food pantry to buy from the Regional Food Bank at reduced prices as well as those items they run short of. **The pantry will use anything we donate but they always need personal hygiene products (soaps, shampoo, toilet paper, etc.) because people cannot purchase these items with food stamps.**

Bottles for Bread – Please continue to place your clean **refundable** containers in the red barrels. If you have a large quantity, pick-up can be arranged. All proceeds go to the Scotia-Glenville food pantry.

Regional Food Bank – A great opportunity for fellowship with others from our church and a group from Bank of America. On the third Tuesday of each month we go to the Regional Food Bank to sort and repack products from various stores. We meet at the church to carpool at 2:00 and usually return there around 4:30. No long term commitment, join us whenever your schedule allows. Our next trip is **TUESDAY, Dec. 16th**.

Box Tops for Education - Box tops for education can be found on some cereal boxes, yogurt containers and numerous other containers. If you are not giving yours to a school, please drop them off at church and we will donate them to local schools.

Labels for Education – Similar to Box Tops for Education the Labels for Education are found on many packages. So if you are not using your labels, please consider bringing them to church.

If you have any questions or want to sign up for any of the above, please contact Dick Knapp (393-5737 or knappster933@gmail.com) or anyone on the Mission Committee.

The **Prayer Shawl Group** continues to be active. Anyone interested in knitting, crocheting or sewing is welcome to participate. We have a good supply of yarn. Please contact Pat Knapp (393-5737 or knappptyme@covad.net) with any questions.



December

12/1	Trustees Meeting – 7:00 pm
12/6	Children's Christmas Decorating 11:00 — 4:00 1:00-3:00
12/7	Communion & Chrismon Sunday
12/9	Visitation Workshop 7:00 pm
12/14	Gingerbread House Event 11:30 am
12/16	Food Pantry 2:00 pm
12/20	"Uncle Fred's Christmas" featuring the Ten Broeck Players 7:00 pm
12/21	Living Gospel Ministry 10:00 am service
12/21	Blue Christmas Service 7:00 pm
12/24	Christmas Eve Family Service 7:00 pm
12/24	Candlelight Service 9:00 pm
12/25	Best wishes for a blessed Christmas Day – Merry Christmas!

**Church Treasurers Report
31-Oct-14**

	2014	
	October 2014	Total thru 10/31/2014
Individual Contributions	\$8,446	\$117,650
Building Use/Rent	\$1,795	\$9,365
Fund Raising/Interest Income	\$600	\$3,071
Grant from Conference	\$0	\$5,000
Total Operating Receipts	\$10,841	\$135,086
Wages & other employment expenses	\$6,380	\$75,384
Church Operations/Program	\$327	\$4,886
Parsonage Expenses	\$498	\$10,794
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	\$598	\$10,293
Church Building-Utilities/Water	\$332	\$10,130
Church Building-All Other	\$561	\$6,775
Apportionments	\$1,993	\$19,928
Benevolences	\$86	\$429
Total Operating Expenses	\$10,774	\$138,619
Surplus (Shortage)	\$67	-\$3,533

There was a surplus of \$67 for the month of October 2014.

Total for the year through 10/31/14 is a shortage of (\$3,533).

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information,
please contact Mary Connors at mechardball@yahoo.com.

The Scotia United Methodist Church is offering a Blue Christmas or Longest Night worship service at 7:00 pm on Sunday, December 21.

In the midst of all the wonder, joy, and celebration of Christmas, with its carols, parties, decorating, baking, gift giving, and family time, it's easy for us to forget that in our own churches, Sunday school classes, and choirs there is likely to be someone for whom the idea of Christmas joy is not part of the season this year. This may be their first Christmas without a spouse, parent or child. Events take place at this time of the year that simply make celebration impossible — illness, sudden death of a loved one, or the burden of caring for a loved one, the loss of a job, oppressive financial difficulties, strained family relations, divorce or separation. For some people, Christmas may simply bring up memories of a difficult and troubled past. Perhaps a spouse, child, or parent has been taken away to fight a war. And for some, they have been confronted with their own mortality, having been told that this may be their own last Christmas. We offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join us on Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 pm at Scotia UMC, for a time of special music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, and healing prayer.

Carl Shepard

Ways to “Be Christ in Christmas”

- 1. Don’t get mad at people when they wish you “Happy Holidays.”** I’m not sure who decided that anger is the right Christian response to a polite greeting from a stranger.
- 2. Go to worship.** It might sound overly simple, but maybe we can look for Christ in his house. The purpose of worship is to connect with the divine, so look for Christ in the hearts of your brothers and sisters.
- 3. Read the Bible.** Again, sounds simple. There are a lot of ways to encounter Christ, and one of them is to read the stories of his life.
- 4. Volunteer.** Give your time to a cause that is meaningful. Use your talents, skills, and passion for something larger than yourself. Love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with your God.
- 5. Buy gifts that will improve lives, not just add to clutter.** A few years ago my brother, sister, our spouses, my children and I decided that we weren’t going to buy each other presents. Instead we give to others. We adopt a family. We give to places like Heifer and Things of My Very Own.
- 6. Throw a Baby Shower for Jesus.** There is a women’s shelter near you. There is a scared teen mother you know. There is a Children’s Home that is struggling to stretch their budget. Invite people to a Baby Shower for Jesus. Have games, food, and decorations just like a regular baby shower. Invite everyone to bring gifts just like at a regular shower. Then give them all away to someone in need.

- Carl Shepard

Christmas Heating Fund

In place of poinsettias this year we will be accepting donations for our winter heating bills. All donations given in memory or in honor of loved ones will be included in our special bulletin on Christmas Eve. Please complete this form along with your check and leave in the Admin. Assistant mail slot by the workroom door (on the right as soon as you walk in) no later than **Sunday, Dec. 7th.** **Specify “Heating Fund” on your check. Any forms submitted after this date will not be included in the bulletin. Thank you for your donation!**

Given by _____

Donation of _____

In memory of _____

OR In honor of _____