

January 2016

Scotia UMC

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.
Ecclesiastes 11:5-6

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

As we begin this new year we are still in the midst of Christmastime since the 12 days of Christmas last from December 25th through January 6th. For the Church, Christmas ends at Epiphany, a day which marks the visit of the Magi, aka the Wise Men, to the stable at Bethlehem to see the new baby. Since Twelfth Night, January 6th, falls on a Wednesday this year, we are finishing our Christmas celebration together on the first Sunday in January.

Yet, as we move away from Christmas and more fully into this new year, let us remember that each new year we are given a fresh start -- not only through our own will power -- but by the gracious initiative of God in giving a Son, claiming us as children, and sending the Spirit into our hearts. This is a pure gift; we cannot earn or deserve it. We can only give thanks and share this gift with others.

Let us remember that just like the Magi took great risks to share their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, finding Jesus means taking risks in life, and for some it may mean risking it all simply to find him. Life as we know it may have to take a different direction, one that is responsive to God's call. So as we move away from Christmas and more fully into this new year, let us seek out and find Jesus and be led in a different way, just like those wise men of old.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Margaret Currier
518-372-9575 – church
518-688-9515 – parsonage
PastorMargaretC@outlook.com

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

1/3 Steve Wesley
1/10 Deb Elliott
1/17 Zach Long
1/24 Mark Cieslak
1/31 Sue Sykes

Sound

Don Smith
Mark Cieslak
Dave Read
Bob Hatt
Don Smith

Acolytes

1/3 Emily St. John, Kayden Graves
1/10 Jaime Stark, Zoey Flansburg
1/17 Hailie St. John, Kaleb Graves
1/24 Rebecca Currier, Daegan Connors
1/31 Zoey Flansburg, Andrew Currier

Ushers

1/3 Dave & Lisa Read
1/10 Deb Cieslak, Holly Russo
1/17 Fiona Goodell, RoyAnn Rogerson
1/24 Dick & Pat Knapp
1/31 Lynn & Sean Flansburg

Social

Irene Coburn
Men's Group
Sue Sykes
Long family
Wendy Liebl

Counters

January – Dean Goodell, Steve Wesley

The Women's Group

All women of the church are invited to join the Women's Group at the Scotia Diner on Sunday, January 10th after church. Separate checks will be provided and we order directly from the menu. Please RSVP with Martha Hatt at 399-4606 or Sue Sykes, 377-3861.

Pledge Envelopes – are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please remember to pick up your envelopes after service to save postage costs. Thank you!

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**. The food pantry, located at the City View Church, 12 Mohawk Avenue, Scotia provides a three (3) day supply of food to residents of Scotia-Glenville. The pantry is open Tuesdays 5:30 – 7:00 pm and Fridays 9:00 – 11:00 am. For information call 399-9426 and ask for Janice Cooper or call Tim Horn at 377-0372.

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. To date you have donated over 4,800 containers. Thank you and stay hydrated.

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, January 19th**.

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.

Calendar

- 1/3 Epiphany Sunday & Communion**
- 1/4 Trustees Meeting 7 pm**
- 1/7 Choir Practice 7:30 pm**
- 1/10 Women's Group Scotia Diner – after church**
- 1/19 Food Pantry 2 pm**
- 1/21 Choir Practice 7:30 pm**
- 1/23 Building Use – Pinewood Derby**
- 1/24 Worship & Welcome Committee 11:30 am**
- 1/25 Admin. Council 7 pm**
- 1/31 Staff Parish Committee 11:30 am**

2015 MISSION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Dec. 21, 2015

While we are called the Mission Team, the only mission trip the church has been involved with in the last seven years, was a five (5) day trip to help rebuild the Schoharie area in 2012. What we really are is a church doing outreach. And we are very good at doing outreach. Many of our members are very involved in the community doing their own outreach and their activities are not listed here. The following are the activities of our congregation:

Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry - The food pantry provides an emergency three day food supply to the needy in our community. The children collect donations twice a month during service. Through November you have donated \$1,614.16 and 277 pounds of food and personal hygiene products. Additionally, your Bottles-for-Bread donations have been redeemed for \$240.90. This brings the total cash given to the food pantry to \$1,854.06. We still have one month and over 500 bottles to be refunded to be added to the total.

Regional Food Bank of Northeast New York – The Food Bank collects large donations of food from the food industry and distributes it to charitable agencies serving hungry and disadvantaged people in 23 counties. From Plattsburgh to Newburgh, in urban, rural, and suburban communities, the Food Bank provides over 30 million pounds of food a year to 1,000 agencies. Join with us, it is 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. Over the last 10 months we have spent 70 person hours working there.

Salvation Army Luncheons – Under June Pelham's direction we prepare and serve lunch approximately six times a year at the Salvation Army location in Schenectady. Through November we did 6 luncheons serving 881 people. There was enough food left over for the Salvation Army to serve an additional 220 people. Ten different volunteers have been involved one or more luncheons.

SICM Summer Lunch Program – Under a federal grant, Schenectady Inner City Ministries (SICM) offers a free lunch to any child less than 18 years of age at 30 fixed sites (parks, churches, etc.) and a mobile van. We served at Hillhurst Park in Schenectady where in July, 20 of us distributed meals to 383 hungry children. A good time was had by all.

Union College Summer Lunch Program – Scotia does not meet the "needs" requirements for the federal government to authorize grant for a free lunch to any child less than 18 years of age. Union College, following the example of SICM, decided to provide free meals for the youth at Collins Park. We served there the first week of August. 27 of us distributed meals to 204 hungry children.

Union College Summer Lunch Food Preparation Program - This year Union College asked that the organization serving the food also help prepare it. 14 different people helped with the food preparation.

Opportunities for Additional Service - Both the Regional Food Bank and Salvation Army have asked us to come more often, so if we have others willing we can expand our service to either or both of them. The S-G food pantry could use one or two people to help serve their clients. Also, we could consider a mission trip, either on our own or with another church/conference. The Mission Committee is open to any suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Knapp - Chair
Mission Committee:

Elsie Maddaus	Deb Cieslak	Judy Swain	Judy Dudley	Dean Goodell	Jill Dunster-Wesley
Jennifer Breslin	Connie Large	Lisa Read	Dick Knapp	June Pelham	

**Church Treasurers Report
30-Nov-15**

	2015	
	November	Total thru
	<u>2015</u>	<u>11/30/2015</u>
Individual Contributions	\$12,053	\$115,445
Building Use/Rent	\$2,125	\$16,531
Fund Raising/Interest Income	\$3,132	\$4,977
Other Designated Giving	\$0	\$1,570
Total Operating Receipts	\$17,310	\$138,523
Wages & other employment expenses	\$6,573	\$71,911
Church Operations/Program	\$374	\$5,250
Parsonage Expenses	\$578	\$7,998
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	\$931	\$6,354
Church Building-Utilities/Water	\$293	\$8,433
Church Building-All Other	\$1,001	\$10,427
Apportionments	\$2,074	\$22,814
Benevolences	\$46	\$452
Total Operating Expenses	\$11,870	\$133,638
Surplus	\$5,440	\$4,885

There was a surplus of \$5,440 for the month of November 2015.
Total for the year through 11/30/15 is a surplus of \$4,885.

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