

January 2015

**2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!* (NIV)**

This is the Day of New Beginnings...

As the familiar hymn suggests, this is a day of new beginnings and some of us will begin the year by making New Year's resolutions about how we will change; how we will make a fresh start with the turning of the calendar. Regardless of how those resolutions turn out, what we do need to remember is that we do have a fresh start -- not by our own will power, but by the gracious initiative of God in sending his Son, claiming us as God's 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.

Sharing this gift should not be that difficult for us as we begin the year for we are still in the midst of Christmastime – the 12 days of Christmas last from December 25 through January 6 ending with the Magi visiting the Christ child. At Christmas we remember and celebrate the sending of the Son of God; as we gaze upon the baby laying in the manger we see the Son of God who was with God in the beginning and who is now sent out to us.

“God of the ages, you have blessed us with yet another year. Help us to make room for the blessings that are in store for us in the coming months. May we be open to learn the right lessons, even if they hurt a little. Help us to learn, so that we won't have to start over. Help us to be patient so that we won't miss divine opportunities. Show us how to be fulfilled without material possessions, so that we will not miss what it means to be a blessed people because we have become arrogant, selfish, stingy, and condescending. Enable us to be a blessing so much so that you will recognize us as the ones who gave you bread when you were hungry, drink when you were thirsty, and clothes when you were naked. May we be wrapped in God's newness, clothed in God's plan, and stamped with God's design as we go out and serve the world in the coming year.” Amen.

(<http://www.gbod.org/resources>)

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

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

1/4 Everett Currier
1/11 Dean Goodell
1/18 Sean O'Sullivan
1/25 Holly Russo

Sound

Dave Read
Bob Hatt
Don Smith
Mark Cieslak

Greeters

1/4 Martha Hatt
1/11 Breslin family
1/18 Sally Dean
1/25 Chris & Christopher Caffrey

Ushers

Kim & Dave Huhtala
Sue Sykes, Addie Sykes
RoyAnn Rogerson, Martha Hatt
Meredith & Bob Van Vorst

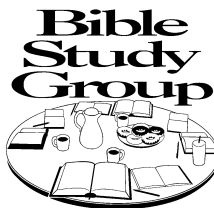
Social

1/4 Don & Marcia Smith
1/11 Stephen Long
1/18 Nicki Jaycox, Kevin Margas
1/25 Laurie Peconie

Counters

June Pelham, Martha Hatt
Dean Goodell, Steve Wesley
Clarence Mosher, Wendy Liebl
Judy Swain, Tim Keegan

The Women's Group –We will host a luncheon after church on ***Sunday, January 11th*** at 11:30 am at the Scotia Diner, Las Vegas Room. We will order off the menu and receive separate checks. The Las Vegas Room is a separate dining room, to the right as you enter; we will be able to enjoy each other's company, have a delicious meal and conduct our meeting. However, we **MUST HAVE 12** or more in attendance, otherwise, we will sit in the main dining area. Bring a friend! This is a great way to kick off the New Year! Breakfast can be ordered all day long. Please RSVP to Sue Sykes, 377-3861 so I can give them a count before we arrive. - Sue Sykes



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, January 20th**.

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.

Calendar

- 1/5 Trustees Meeting 7 pm**
- 1/8 Choir Practice 7:30 pm**
- 1/11 Woman's Group Luncheon at Scotia Diner 11:30 am**
- 1/16 Set-up for Pinewood Derby 6:30 pm**
- 1/17 Derby from 10 am – 1 pm in Community Room**
- 1/19 Staff Parish Relations Committee 7 pm**
- 1/20 Food Pantry 2 pm**
- 1/22 Choir Practice 7:30 pm**
- 1/24 Movie Night 5:30 pm in Loomis Room**
- 1/26 Admin. Council 7 pm**

****UPDATED PICTORIAL MEMBER DIRECTORY 2015****

We want you included as part of the Scotia United Methodist Church pictorial directory. Photo Sessions with Lifetouch are scheduled for January 23 & 24. Information to sign up for an appointment will be sent in an email or available in the office and on Sundays.

Church Treasurers Report
30-Nov-14

	2014		
	November	Total thru	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>11/30/2014</u>	
Individual Contributions	\$10,391	\$127,996	
Building Use/Rent	\$100	\$9,465	
Fund Raising/Interest Income	\$1,933	\$5,050	
Grant from Conference	\$0	\$5,000	
Total Operating Receipts	\$12,425	\$147,511	
Wages & other employment expenses	\$6,282	\$81,666	81666.3
Church Operations/Program	\$72	\$4,958	4957.98
Parsonage Expenses	\$367	\$11,161	11160.98
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	\$149	\$10,442	10441.5
Church Building-Utilities/Water	\$328	\$10,458	10457.59
Church Building-All Other	\$984	\$7,759	7759.43
Apportionments	\$1,993	\$21,921	21921.24
Benevolences	\$0	\$429	
Total Operating Expenses	\$10,175	\$148,794	
Surplus (Shortage)	\$2,250	-\$1,283	

There was a surplus of \$2,250 for the month of November 2014.
Total for the year through 11/30/14 is a shortage of (\$1,283).

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

Family Movie Night is back! Come join us on *Saturday, January 24th at 5:30 pm* as we watch "The Miracle Maker - the Story of Jesus," a claymation film with an all-star cast. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Bring your family and friends ~ all ages are welcome! Wear your pjs, bring a blanket and pillow, and join us for a fun night of film, faith, and fellowship! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Jennifer Breslin (bnjbrez@aol.com), Mary Connors (mechardball@yahoo.com) or Sheila Holloway (holloway798@earthlink.net).

January 2015 thank you for 2014 service

The Mission Committee thanks you for your participation in the outreach activities of Scotia United Methodist Church in 2014. More people participated in and/or donated to our activities than in previous years. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. Below is a list of some of last year's activities.

SALVATION ARMY LUNCHEONS

Seven times we provided, prepared and served a lunch at the Salvation Army. Fourteen of us took turns working there. This included four who had not served before. We provided over 1,150 meals.

SCHENECTADY INNER CITY MINISTRIES (SICM) SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Once again we served lunches at the SICM location in Hillhurst Park on Campbell Avenue during the week of July 21 - 25. Over the 5 days, 16 adults and 8 youth served 541 children. This includes one adult and three youth who had not served here last year. In addition to meeting the children we interacted with parents and/or guardians.

UNION COLLEGE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Union College ran a summer lunch program at Collins Park for the second time. We served the week of August 11 – 15. Over the 5 days, 11 adults and 12 youth served 153 children. This includes six adults and ten youth who served here for the first time. In addition to meeting the children we interacted with parents and/or guardians.

REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Once a month we serve at the Regional Food bank by sorting the various donated items into smaller containers for distribution to charities (women shelters, food pantries, etc.). 13 adults and 11 youth were involved with the work.

SCOTIA – GLENVILLE FOOD PANTRY

Twice a month our youth collect food and money for the food pantry during service. We also collect refundable containers in our “Bottles-for Bread” campaign. In all, the congregation has donated \$2,534.45 plus refundable containers worth \$392.20 plus 415 pounds of food in the past 12 months.

We also thank the “church mice” for making prayer shawls and baptism quilts. Then there are the “church mice” who work outside the church doors. They volunteer at the various food pantries, the Baptist Retirement Center, the Schenectady school district and Habitat for Humanity. We also have one who teaches math and English at the City Mission of Schenectady.

Last, but definitely not least, we owe a thank you to the Sunday School teachers and the unnamed others who organized and collected for Heifer International, the Children's Christmas shoe boxes, the Crop Hunger Walk, the community wide Halloween party and the intergenerational gingerbread house building. Thank you one and all for your support by your time, talents, donations and your prayers that make Scotia United Methodist Church the place that it is.