

SEPTEMBER
2014

Scotia UMC

September 2014

"The Lord has been mindful of us: He will bless us."

Psalms 115:12 KJV

Welcome Home!

As is tradition, we kick off September with Homecoming Sunday; a worship service where we welcome each other back home from wherever the summer season has taken us to celebrate a new season together. We have many things to celebrate in this new season. We celebrate another season of Tuesday morning Bible study group, Women's Group, Missions Group, and Sunday School which will look a little different this season. We also celebrate some new beginnings together. My family and I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to you all for welcoming us these past few months and now we celebrate with you as we welcome Carl Shepard to our ministry team. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Carl yet, you can read all about him on page 5 of this newsletter!

Sunday School officially begins on September 14th with a new schedule and a new curriculum. The lectionary based curriculum will practice the idea of One Word – One Faith which means that everyone who walks through the doors of Scotia United Methodist Church on Sunday morning will encounter the same Scripture, the same Word of God.

Starting in September and continuing throughout the season, we welcome several training opportunities for lay visitation, safe sanctuaries certification and becoming an acolyte. Wherever you feel called or have a desire to learn more, you are welcomed here to explore. Welcome home, Scotia United Methodist Church. Welcome Home!

Pastor Margaret Currier
518-372-9575 – church
518-688-9515 – parsonage

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

9/7 Marcia Smith
9/14 Jim Coburn
9/21 Jill Wesley
9/28 Dean Goodell

Sound

Bob Hatt
Don Smith
Mark Cieslak
Dave Read

Nursery

Fiona Goodell
Sally Dean
Lisa Read
Chris Caffery

Greeters

9/7 Jodi Stark, Jaime Stark
9/14 TBD
9/21 TBD
9/28 Jodi Stark, Jaime Stark

Ushers

Zych family
Dick & Pat Knapp
Jenn Breslin, Owen Breslin
Bob & Meredith Van Vorst

Social

9/7 Debbie Cieslak, Darlene St. Amour
9/14 Meredith & Bob Van Vorst, Janet Daly
9/21 Nicki Jaycox & Kevin Margas
9/28 Stephen Long

Counters

Clarence Mosher
Martha Hatt, Judy Swain
Tim Keegan, Dick Knapp
Pat Knapp, Dean Goodell

The Women's Group will kick off their fall monthly meetings on **Sunday, September 21st** after church at **11:30 am at the Turf Restaurant on Mohawk Avenue**. The Turf will provide each of us with individual checks and several women have suggested we have our monthly meeting at a local restaurant so what better place to go than right here in Scotia and their food is delicious! Maria and Tom Gallant have been running this restaurant for quite some time and it comes highly recommended. I would like to have a head count by Friday, September 19; my phone is 377-3861. Please leave a message if I'm not at home, or email me at ssykes1@nycap.rr.com. Thank you! – Sue Sykes

If you have announcements of future meetings or events here at SUMC, please email them to scotiaumoffice@gmail.com for the **October newsletter** by **September 20th**. **Anything received past this date will not be included.** Thank you!



SUMC IN MISSIONS

THANK YOU to all who participated in the summer lunch program. You made it a success. We served twice as many children at Hillhurst Park this summer as we did last year, while at Collins Park the numbers remained the same. The SUMC tee shirts made a good impression. You can see some of the pictures on the bulletin board in the Loomis Room.

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.

Regional Food Bank – On the third Tuesday of each month everyone is invited to go to the Regional Food Bank to sort and repack products. We meet at the church to carpool at 2:00 and usually return around 4:30. Our next trip is **TUESDAY, September 16th**.

Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry collections for food and cash, during service the **2nd and 4th Sundays each month**. Cash will purchase fresh items locally & from the Food Bank. Current needs: personal hygiene products, soap, shampoo, toilet paper etc.

Bottles for bread – Please place your clean **returnable** bottles in the red barrels. If you have a large quantity, pick-up can be arranged. All proceeds go to Scotia Food Pantry.

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. 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 Team.

Anyone interested in knitting, crocheting or sewing is welcome to participate in the prayer shawl group. We have a good supply of yarn. Contact Pat Knapp 393-5737 or knappptyme@covad.net

2nd Annual Doug (Mug) Mini-Golf Tournament

On **September 14th at Glenville Sports Mini-Plex** on Freemans Bridge Road in Scotia starting at 1:00 pm. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Rain or Shine. This is a fundraiser for the general fund of SUMC. 1st place prize - etched coffee mug and last place prize will be an etched coffee cup. Free Coffee, bring your own food and drink for a picnic.

Celebrations & Prayers

Prayers for the family of Rev. Kim Goodrich (Waterford UMC); Kim's mom, Kay Withers Eldridge, passed away at 12:04am (Pacific Time) Aug 2nd at home. There will be a memorial service Saturday, September 6, at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Liverpool, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, in memory of Kay.

Kim and Bob Goodrich's address is P.O. Box 266, Waterford, NY 12188 for cards and condolences.

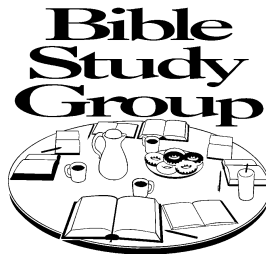
Prayers for Dale Smith, who was recently admitted to Ellis Hospital.



Sunday School classes will officially begin on September 14th! There will be three sections of Sunday School this year: Kindergarten through 3rd grade, 4th and 5th grades, and 6th through 12th grades. Elementary sections will be taught from 10:15-11:15 am on every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday). The Middle and High School section will meet from 10:15-11:15 am on the second and third Sundays of the month. A clipboard will be passed around in church soon, so that you can sign up to help out as a Teacher Aide in the classrooms!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Help the Sunday School program! There is a donation box located outside of the Sunday School classroom (Room #3) that we need your help to fill! Any household items that could be turned into fun craft projects for the kids this upcoming year would be greatly appreciated. Some examples: egg cartons, toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, clean jars, pennies, tissue boxes (slit top kind), and oatmeal containers with lids (cylinder type). Thank you so much for your support.

The children of SUMC are going to be organizing a drive for Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child** this year. Currently, we are looking to collect empty shoeboxes and what better time to do this than during back-to-school shopping season! Please bring any available shoeboxes to Room 3 (Sunday School classroom). And look out for more information about this exciting mission opportunity soon- "Be a part of changing lives through the power of a simple gift."



Tuesday, September 9th is the date for resuming our Tuesday morning Bible study at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. I volunteered to lead that session, so here's the assignment:

Read "Disciplines" **Monday, September 1st through Sunday, September 7th** along with the Bible selections for each day. Please note this is different from last year. At our first session we can decide how we want to do it this year. Come with ideas for any side studies that interest you.

I look forward to seeing you all from **9:30 to 11:00 on Tuesdays**. Let's pray for our families, friends, neighbors, and one another. God listens; He answers prayer.

-Rupert Pratt



Introducing Carl Shepard

And here I thought I had retired! Actually, I've worked all my life, from the time I was eight years old in North Creek until I retired from ministry at the Alplaus UMC at the end of June this year. Still, I enjoyed playing golf and working during the month of July on the house we bought in Clifton Park. I'm sure I'll enjoy my 1/4-time association with Scotia UMC.

So a little about me... I have 4½ college degrees - BS and MS in secondary science education with a physics major, an MS and PhD in physics (all from SUNY Albany), and half way through an MDiv at Andover Newton Theological School in Boston, and a few other assorted courses. I taught high school for 14 years at Newcomb in the Adirondacks (Clarence knows where that is). I worked at SUNY Cobleskill for 20½ years, working my way up through all the academic ranks, department chair, Director, and left there as Assistant Vice-President for Academics. I also have done research in materials science.

Following my career in education, having taken early retirement, I became a licensed local pastor serving first the Broadway UMC, then merging with Fisher to become the Rotterdam UMC where I co-pastored with Dana Carroll, and spent my final six years at Alplaus UMC. Since Alplaus has done a number of shared worship services with Scotia, I already know a number of people here. It's important that you know, however, that I am not being appointed here by the Conference and so am no longer licensed to be a pastor. For pastoral needs you will need to go to Pastor Margaret.

Beyond my work life, I have been helping with flood recovery in the Schoharie Valley for nearly three years now. I go out every Wednesday and do whatever work is needed - mucking out, scraping mold, framing, sheet rocking, electrical installations, planning projects, supervising crews - you name it and I've probably done it. So they put me on the Board of Directors of the recovery organization (SALT) and have made me a member or chair of six different committees so far. You'll be hearing more about that work from me.

For recreation, I'm an avid though average golfer. And a singer. I've sung with church choirs, community choirs, chamber singers, Electric City Chorus, and even with Albany Pro Musica a couple of times. Currently I sing with a gospel quartet, *The New Messengers*. I hope to bring them to Scotia for a concert.

I look forward to working with the movers and shakers in the congregation. I bring a number of gifts and talents and experiences that I think can be very helpful as you go through the transition from a full-time to part-time pastor and as you pause to re-think how this church can best use its resources to serve God and your community.

Carl Shepard

Lay Visitation Training

One of the adjustments the church has to make in transitioning from full to part-time clergy is in the visitation program. Simply put, visitation takes a lot of time and will burn out the pastor. One solution is for lay people to step up, form a team, and learn to do the majority of the visitation. There are many reasons why this is not only necessary, but desirable. This does not mean that Pastor Margaret or I will not do any visits but that we will only do ones where a clergy visit is requested, and also, most hospital visits.

As the Assistant to the Pastor, I will offer the training in a 2-3 hour workshop and help set up and manage the program. If you are interested, please let me know and we will arrange a time for training. – Carl Shepherd

Church Treasurers Report
(YTD=Year to Date)
(B=Better,
W=Worse)

	<u>July</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Variance</u> <u>YTD-B/-W</u>	<u>To Prior Year</u> <u>Variance</u> <u>YTD-B/-W</u>	
Operating Income				
Individual Contributions	\$86,580	\$2,600	\$3,427	Actual includes \$2,000 designated operating Donation to cover over budget costs for the church building
Investment Income	\$344	\$51	-\$96	
Building Use/Rent	\$3,920	-\$370	\$2,590	Mekeel
Fund Raising	\$1,941	\$591	\$567	Special Vintage Sale in 2014
Grant from Conference	\$5,000	-\$667	-\$667	
Total Operating Income	\$97,785	\$2,205	\$5,821	
Operating Expenses				
Wages	\$42,629	\$2,060	\$639	Prior W due to Salary increases, Budget B due to ½ time Pastor
Pastor Salary Supplements	\$13,198	\$801	-\$243	Prior W due to health insurance increases, Budget B due to pastor mileage
Employment Taxes & Insurance	\$1,876	\$37	-\$144	Prior W due to Background check costs
Church Operations	\$2,667	-\$247	-\$108	Due to \$354 purchase of new phones for church office
Church Program	\$1,619	-\$654	-\$892	Prior W due to additional person attending conference, Budget W temporary
Parsonage-Repairs	\$5,814	-\$4,254	-\$5,723	Due primarily to plumbing, tile, pest control & garage door repairs
Parsonage-All Other	\$3,575	\$84	-\$110	Prior W due to utilities
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	\$8,462	-\$3,961	-\$3,661	Due primarily to heat system repairs and safety enhancements
Church Building-Utilities/Water	\$9,476	-\$596	-\$941	Probably due to increased building use with new tenants
Church Building-All Other	\$5,328	\$861	\$1,970	Budget B due to Snow removal, Prior B due to Property Insurance
Apportionments	\$13,950	\$0	\$847	Prior year B due to allocation decrease by conference
Benevolences	\$267	\$33	\$116	
Total Operating Expenses	\$108,861	-\$5,836	-\$8,250	
Gain/-Loss	-\$11,076	-\$3,631	-\$2,429	
Capital Campaign Donations	\$8,826			\$8,204 pledged in 2013, \$622 of new money
Capital Spending	\$2,975			Replastering of church ceiling and architect fees for building assessment
Loan Interest Expense	\$939			

Capital Bank Loan Balance	\$23,587
Capital Pledges Receivable	\$18,121

Attention Committee Leaders: Please email your current meeting dates, times and locations to scoti-aumoffice@gmail.com We are organizing our monthly calendars to accommodate the increased building use and it would be helpful to have this information each month. Thank you for your cooperation!

Office Update: The mail slots have been re-organized upon request to reflect the staff and committees. Please pick up any spare mail that is on the workroom counters for those who are no longer on a committee. Thank you!

Liturgist Needs

Thanks to all who have signed up to be Liturgist in the 4th quarter. We still have some open dates so if you have the time to support your church family, please let me know. Open Dates are October 12th – Nov 9th and 16th. And most importantly the two Christmas Eve Services, early and late. Your church family appreciates your support! – Mark Cieslak

Admin. Council Meeting – Monday, Sept. 22nd at 7 pm

Finance Meeting – Wed. Sept. 24th at 6 pm

Calendar Review Meeting – Wed. Sept. 24th at 7 pm

Men's Club Breakfast – Sat. Sept. 27th at 8 am – Community Room

Men's Club Breakfast – On Saturday, Sept. 27th, please join us for breakfast in the Community Room at 8:00 am. Our guest speaker will be Mark Jones, Chair of the United Methodist Men's (UMM) Group. Please sign up so we can set up the appropriate number of tables and buy eggs, sausage, juice and pancake mix. We want to have a good turnout of men for this special event with our Conference Chair.

