

December
2012



ADVENT

When I think of Advent, I think of anticipation—the excitement that builds as we draw closer and closer to Christmas. I can't wait till the day after Thanksgiving to get out the Christmas music, to start decorating the house for Christmas.

But it is hard to wait, especially when the stores have had Christmas items prominently displayed for the last few months. This time of anticipation and preparation is counterintuitive in today's society. We are so used to instant gratification. When we are forced to wait, we have an opportunity to be still, to reflect on God's working in and through us.

Advent is the season that spans the four Sundays prior to Christmas, the focus of which is to prepare our hearts and minds for

the coming of Jesus. Advent has traditionally focused on the second coming of Christ. More recently, Christians have re-appropriated Advent to focus on the birth of Jesus. We will focus on those that prepare the way for Jesus' coming in Advent (the prophesy of the Davidic line, John the Baptist, Joseph and Mary). During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I invite you to join me on a journey of prayer and reflection on what it means to have room for Jesus in our hearts and in our lives. Let us welcome the Christ Child, God with us.

Blessings during this Holy Season,

Pastor Megan

Deadline for January issue of Carillon – December 20th.

Christmas Heating Fund: Instead of poinsettias this year, we'll be accepting donations towards the Church's winter heating bills. You can make donations in honor or in memory of a loved one, which will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The cut-off date to be included in the bulletin is Tuesday, **December 11th.**

Liturgists

Ushers

Sound

Greeters

Social Hour

Advent Wreath

New Offering Envelopes

New envelopes will be available to all those who have made pledges for 2013. Please do not use last year's envelopes for 2013.





Holiday Schedule

Potluck Dinner & Charge Conference Sunday, Dec. 2nd

The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church, directing the work of the church and giving general oversight to the church council. It reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the trustees, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry.

Woman's Group Christmas Dinner

The dinner will be held on Monday, Dec. 10th at 6 pm. Please come with a friend and bring a favorite meal to share. The Scotia Glenville Chamber Orchestra will complete the evening with a concert in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to stop in for the concert.

Inter-generational Gingerbread House Assembly

This popular holiday event will be held on Sunday, December 16th after church service. Please bring some candies to share. If you have children's shoe boxes that you can donate for the event, please contact Nancy Cooper.

Heifer Project

Our Middle Schoolers had a wonderful idea to raise money for the Heifer Project. If you would like to donate, please let Belinda Wagner know.

Christmas Eve Services

Monday December 24th at 7 pm - A child-friendly service which includes the nativity play, candlelight for the adults and glowsticks for the children.

11 pm - A traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 am - Continuing the study of the Disciplines & learning more about Charles Wesley

Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

We will be reading through the book, "*The Journey, A Season of Reflections: Walking the Road to Bethlehem.*" You can purchase your copy from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for approximately \$10.

FINANCE REPORT

2012	October	Budget Variance	October Year to Date	Budget Variance Year to Date-B/ (W)
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Month-B/(W)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>(W)</u>
Income	\$12,648	-\$1,570	\$130,258	-\$4,195
Expenses	\$12,794	-\$126	\$135,105	\$1,982
Gain/(Loss)	-\$146	-\$1,696	-\$4,847	-\$2,213
Capital Spending	\$7,200	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: Budget change-The \$10k Grant budget spread over 12 months instead of 6 months. Hence, the budget variance for the month changes but not for the whole year.

October Month

- * October income was less than budget primarily due to a shortfall of \$562 in individual contributions as well as a shortfall of \$825 in building use income.
- * October expenses are worse than budget due to \$511 negative variance for church repairs. The downstairs toilet was fixed for \$112 and the two furnaces were cleaned and checked for \$399.
- * \$7,200 was spent on roof dormer replacement and is considered a capital expense. This repair should stop the ceiling damage in the altar area from getting any worse.

October Year to Date

- * Income year to date is short of budget due to the less than expected grant money of \$1,350, building use rent shortfall of \$3,182, fundraising shortfall of \$1,170 partially offset by greater than budgeted individual contributions of \$1,580.
- * Year to date expenses are positive to budget due primarily to church heating and snow plowing savings partially offset by church roof and parsonage repairs.

October Year to Date Compared to Prior Year to Date

- * Good news. Individual giving year to date is about \$4,510 over the same period last year Helping to offset the building use rent which is now \$7,163 less than last year due to the loss of the nursery school revenue.
- * More good news. Expenses year to date are less than the prior year by \$4,847 primarily due to decreased apportionments of \$2,373, lower church property related expenses of \$1,505 and no pastor move related expense in 2012.

Forecast

- * In order to break even for the year, we will need to make up the \$5k YTD Shortfall

SUMC IN MISSIONS



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, Dec. 18th**. A good opportunity for fellowship with other church members and helpers from Bank of America.

Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry collections for both food and cash, during service on the **second and fourth Sundays each month**. Cash will allow the food pantry to buy fresh items locally and from the Food Bank and those items in short supply. Need peanut butter, jellies, juices, pasta sauces and pasta

Bottles for bread – Please place your clean **returnable** bottles in the red barrels. If you have a large quantity, pick-up can be arranged. To date, you have donated 3,682 returnable containers. This means that in addition to your bi-monthly contributions \$184.10 was given to the food pantry. Thank you.

For info on Prayer Shawl group contact Pat Knapp (393-5737 or knappptyme@covad.net)

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 [new address]

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CALENDAR

Sun. 12/2 Charge Conference & Dinner after service

Mon. 12/3 Trustees 7 pm

Mon. 12/10 Women's Christmas Dinner at 6 pm
Concert at 7:30 pm

Sun. 12/16 Gingerbread House event after service

Mon. 12/17 Finance 6 pm
Staff Parish 7 pm

Tues. 12/18 Food Bank 2 pm

Mon. 12/24
Christmas Eve Services
7 pm & 11 pm

A blessed holy
Christmas to all!

Scotia United Methodist Church 2013 Pledge

Name: _____

Pledge Amount

_____ per week or _____ per month

Contact Information

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____