

February  
2013



## Good News for the New Year

I am so excited to share some **good news!!!** Nancy Karm, our treasurer, shared that we ended 2012 **in the black**. What does that mean exactly? We took in more money than we spent and had a bit left over. For the past several years, there had been a trend of receiving less pledges and rental money than what we spent on salaries, ministries and missions, building maintenance, electric and plowing. There had been several generous bequests that we lived off of as well as using our savings to stay afloat. To paint an even brighter picture, the **2013 stewardship campaign** was **successful** thanks in a large part to Ken Handy, our stewardship chair. We have pledges of over \$124,000, a 40% increase over just two years ago. Does this mean that there is new or more money? Possibly. Possibly some people who had not pledged in the past finally wrote down what financial contribution they were able to give to God through this congregation, which is also a

positive step. If you have not yet pledged and were considering it, please do.

We balanced the 2013 budget by putting in money for renting the facilities, a grant from the Upper New York Conference and fundraising that we may or may not receive. We are on a positive upswing. Crunching the numbers of people in the pews, we had approximately 85 people in church each Sunday (that includes our nursery care attendant and the children in the nursery as well as the people in the pews, liturgist, organist and pastor). We brought a check over to the Scotia Glenville Food Pantry in January for \$600 to support the needy in our own neighborhoods. God is doing amazing things in and through our congregation! I cannot wait to see what is next. Blessings, Pastor Megan



**FLAME CONCERT SAT. MARCH 16<sup>th</sup>!**

## Worship Schedule

## Liturgists

2/3 Holly Russo  
2/10 Steve Warfield  
2/17 Sean Flansburg  
2/24 Martha Hatt

## Ushers

2/3 Holly Russo, Sue Sykes  
2/10 Judy Matthews, Nancy Cooper  
2/17 Zych family  
2/24 Steve Long, Amber Lionflame

## Sound

2/3 Dave Read  
2/10 Bob Hatt  
2/17 Don Smith  
2/24 Mark Cieslak

## Greeters

2/3 Janet & Carl Fitch  
2/10 Barbara Blum, Elsie Maddaus  
2/17 Barbara Blum, Elsie Maddaus  
2/24 Shirley & Kenneth Sebis

## Social Hour

2/3 Don & Marcia Smith  
2/10 Read family  
2/17 Flansburgs & Holloways  
2/23 Belinda Wagner, Zych family

## Nursery Volunteers

2/3 Judy Matthews  
2/10 Stephen Long  
2/17 Lisa Read  
2/24 Amiee Warfield



**A big thank-you** to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas! The children's tree in the Loomis Room looked great with some unique creations and I know the kids (and parents) had fun making all those new decorations. The "story" that the Huhtalas illustrated for us began with a plain unadorned branch and every week something happened to that branch until on Christmas Eve it had miraculously become something beautiful. We were rewarded for our efforts with the compliments given by congregants and by visitors. The lights and greenery create a different atmosphere, one of comfort and peace.

-Holly Russo

## Is there a part of you that dreads the season of Lent?

Because you know it may require...sacrifice? Giving up sweets, eating out, tv, or facebook? Well, before we participate fully in the season, we're celebrating one last hurrah! On February 12th at 6 pm, join us for a Shrove Tuesday pancake meal. What is Shrove Tuesday? It is the day before the start of Lent where you are given permission, even encouraged to eat all the bad things that are in the pantry. Want some pancakes with maple syrup? Bacon or Sausage? Come on over to enjoy a meal together. If you are interested in helping to cook the meal, please let Pastor Megan know. We'd love to have rsvp's so we know how much to prepare and cook. If you are planning on attending, either sign up on the board by Pastor Megan's office or call Cyndy so we can save you a seat. There may even be some mardi gras beads just waiting for you!

## Women's Group Report

### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AT JANUARY MEETING:

PRESIDENT: Martha Hatt - VICE- PRESIDENT: Sue Sykes - TREASURER: Royann Rogerson - SECRETARY: Darlene St Amour - DEVOTIONS: Wendy Liebl - HOSPITALITY: Judy Matthews - MEMBERSHIP: Darlene St Amour - SPECIAL EVENTS: Debbie Cieslak, Merry Maloy, Judy Swain - SUNSHINE: June Pelham

We meet on the second Monday of every month and every one is invited to our meetings at 7:00 pm in the fireplace room.

Thank you for the support we received this past year. We were able to give \$1000.00 to the budget, bought a refrigerator for the downstairs kitchen, a crib for the nursery, and kept the pantry for the coffee hour well supplied. We were able to give donations totaling \$1050.00 to the following organizations: Schenectady Inner City Ministry, STEP, Scotia Relief, Gateway Longview, City Mission, Albany District UMW, Joan Nicole Prince Home, Albany Maritime Ministry, C.O.C.C.A. House, Glenville Rotary for Pakistan and Blue Star Mothers. If you are interested in becoming more involved with this group, please don't hesitate to talk to any of us to learn more details.

### Next Meeting – Monday, Feb. 11th

The Scotia Methodist Women would like to issue a special invitation to all the women in our congregation to come to our next meeting on February 11th at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of fun, fellowship and refreshments.

This is an opportunity for you to get to know other women in our church and group. You can also learn about the activities and programs we support and enjoy in order to donate our money and time to our church, our community and to the world around us.

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**The Season of Lent** comes early this year, starting on February 13. Lent is a season of 40 days, not including Sundays. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 13), a time where we reflect on our mortality, need for forgiveness and the power of the resurrection. Last year's palms from Palm Sunday are burned and we will have a chance to get the ashes imposed upon our foreheads or hands in the sign of the cross. Lent is a time to heal what is hurt as we journey towards Easter, learning to live an Easter life (living as if death has no hold upon us anymore). Too often Christians focus just on giving up something for Lent rather than emphasizing that this is a time to prepare for baptisms and for membership in the church. Let us journey towards Easter together as fellow followers on the path, knowing that we are water-washed, claimed and named and have possibilities for new growth as children of God.

## FINANCE REPORT

2012	December	Budget Variance	December	Budget Variance
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Month-B/(W)</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date-B/ (W)</u>
Income	\$18,075	\$2,362	\$161,783	-\$2,873
Expenses	<u>\$13,768</u>	<u>\$594</u>	<u>\$161,534</u>	<u>\$3,122</u>
Gain/(Loss)	\$4,307	\$2,956	\$249	\$249
Capital Spending (Net of Donation)	-\$1,020	\$1,020	\$7,200	-\$7,200

**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.**

### **December Month**

- \* December income was greater than budget due to a Five Sunday month and Christmas donations offset by a fund raising shortfall of \$1,383.
- \* December expenses were better than budget due primarily to \$935 positive variance for Church utilities.

### **December Year to Date**

- \* **Great news. The church broke even for the year.**
- \* Income year to date is short of budget due to the less than expected grant money of \$1,350, building use rent shortfall of \$4,067, fundraising shortfall of \$2,590 partially offset by greater than budgeted individual contributions of \$5,098.
- \* 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.

### **December Year to Date Compared to Prior Year to Date**

- \* Individual giving year to date is \$8,365 over last year. Building use revenue is \$6,743 less than last year due to the loss of the Nursery School revenue. Conference grant money is \$1,350 less than last year. In total, income was \$352 over last year. \$1,900 of the Individual contributions were to cover the unbudgeted parking lot seal coating and sign replacement.
- \* Expenses year to date are less than the prior year by \$6,470 primarily due to decreased apportionments of \$2,847, lower church property related expenses of \$2,332 and no pastor move related expense in 2012.

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH CARILLON Feb. 20th**

## 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, February 19th. 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 the **2nd and 4th Sundays each month**. Cash will help purchase fresh items locally and from the Food Bank and those items in short supply. Always need more canned vegetables.

### **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. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Knapp 393-5737 or [knappster933@gmail.com](mailto:knappster933@gmail.com)

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

Anyone interested in knitting, crocheting or sewing is welcome to participate. We have a good supply of yarn.

**Boy Scout Sunday is February 10<sup>th</sup>.** Scouts are encouraged to come in uniform and are welcome to participate in service. Please contact Pastor Megan for details.

## CALENDAR

- 2/4 Trustees 7 pm
- 2/7 Worship mtg. 6 pm
- 2/10 Boy Scout Sun.
- 2/11 Women's Group 7 pm
- 2/12 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 6 pm
- 2/13 Ash Wed. 7 pm
- 2/14 Happy Valentines Day! ♥
- 2/17 Baptism
- 2 /18 Finance 6 pm
- 2/18 Presidents Day
- 2/19 Food Bank 2 pm
- 2/25 Admin. 7 pm

### **Weekly Bible Studies**

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am / Thursday Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm**

**Prayers** for Frances Cole and Marietta Jones who suffered strokes in late December. Marietta is recovering at Sunnyview and Frances is still at the Avenue.

Prayers for the family of James Johnston who passed away on December 23, 2012. He was baptized in this congregation 20 years ago. Prayers for the family of James Stevens, who passed away on January 19. He was a vital member of the congregation for many years and had retired to CT. His granddaughter, Hayley Stevens was married here in September.

**Congratulations** to Nicole Alyse Johnston (daughter of Khristian Carbonello and James Johnston) who was baptized on 12/28/2012. Godparents were Kevin Margas and Nicolina Jaycox. Congratulations to Stefan and Amanda (Parker) McVeigh who were married on 1/19/2013 at SUMC. Amanda was baptized here as an infant.