

June

2013

# Scotia UMC

## Welcome Summer!

Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Don't miss out!

This Sunday the big reveal will happen. Just how will Pastor Megan look with **rainbow** colored hair? Despite her pleas for “one normal color choice,” the youth and children voted almost unanimously for multi-colored hair. A great big word of thanks to everyone who gave to this cause. We raised almost \$1500 for the Capital Improvement Campaign. (a tithe of the amount we need to raise)

Speaking of the **Capital Improvement Campaign**: No, it is not too late to donate. We are almost 2/3 of the way to our goal of \$150,000. However, we need around \$80,000 in hand to be able to do the next stage of our repair work, replacing the Christian Education Wing roof. Will you be the person who helps us to move forward?

### June Calendar

Sun. 6/2	Children's Sunday
Mon. 6/3	Trustees 7 pm
Sat. 6/8	Church Yard Sale
Mon. 6/10	Women's Group 7 pm
Sun. 6/16	Father's Day
Mon. 6/17	Finance 6 pm
Tues. 6/18	Food Bank 2 pm
Sun. 6/23	Peace with Justice offering
Mon. 6/24	Admin. Council 7 pm

### Next month:

Church office will be closed for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.  
Pastor Megan will be out of town from June 27 to July 2.

UM Army at SUMC – week of July 14-20

## Summer Newsletter

The next issue of the newsletter will be a combined July/August issue. If you have any meetings or events to be listed, please email them to the office by **July 12<sup>th</sup>**.

## Worship Schedule

## Liturgists

6/2 Mikaela Potter  
6/9 Steve Warfield  
6/16 Sue Sykes  
6/23 Elsie Maddaus  
6/30 Dean Goodell

## Ushers

6/2 Swain family  
6/9 Amiee & Steve Warfield  
6/16 Charlene Vice, Fran Brown  
6/23 Holly Russo, Deb Cieslak  
6/30 Sue Sykes, MacKenzie Sykes

## Sound

6/2 Bob Hatt  
6/9 Don Smith  
6/16 Mark Cieslak  
6/23 Dave Read  
6/30 Bob Hatt

## Greeters

6/2 Barbara Blum, RoyAnn Rogerson  
6/9 Barbara Blum, RoyAnn Rogerson  
6/16 Pat & Dick Knapp  
6/23 Irene Coburn, Elsie Maddaus  
6/30 Tim Keegan, Elsie Maddaus

## Nursery

6/2 Kim Huhtala  
6/9 Fiona Goodell  
6/16 Sally Dean  
6/23 Martha Hatt  
6/30 June Pelham

## Social Hour

6/2 Pat & Dick Knapp  
6/9 Swain family  
6/16 Women's Group  
6/23 Meredith Van Vorst  
6/30 need a volunteer



## Women's Group News

The Woman's Group will be meeting Monday, June 10th at 6:00 pm for a covered dish supper at the home of Martha Hatt, our group president. Address: 16 Homestead Road in Glenville. Members are welcome to bring a guest from church; please bring a dish to share but not a dessert. Please RSVP to Martha at 399-4606.

At our April meeting, Vanessa Chamaber, a Yoga instructor, demonstrated some Yoga moves and spoke on the topic. The feedback from the meeting showed a possible interest in having our own class here at SUMC. However, we need to get an idea of how many women are interested because her rates vary depending on the size of the class.

Rates start at \$96 for 3 or 4 participants down to \$48 if we have 13 or more participants. Her classes run for 8 week intervals & include physical postures, breathing techniques & meditation.

Please let us know if you are interested and what day or evening of the week you prefer. We are looking at the fall time frame. You can phone me at 377-3861 or email me at: [ssykes1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ssykes1@nycap.rr.com). Thank you - Sue Sykes

## SUMC IN MISSIONS

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES – Please contact Dick Knapp if you are available for either or both opportunities.**

**SICM Summer Lunch Program** at Hillhurst Park in Schenectady is July 22 – 26. We will need 4 volunteers each day for serving lunch and cleaning up.

**Union College** is doing a summer lunch program at Collins Park in Scotia. We have been asked to serve lunch the week of August 5 – 9. We will need three helpers a day.

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

**Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry** collections for 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. Useful items: peanut butter, jellies, juices, pasta sauces, 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. 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](mailto: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](mailto:knappptyme@covad.net)

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### ***Weekly Bible Studies will resume in September***

**GARAGE SALE JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>** – Once again your church will be participating with the Village wide garage sales on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Please bring in your unwanted treasures to help us raise funds. Who will win this year's treasured gift for guessing the total amount taken in for the garage sale? - it could be you...

### **Prayers & Celebrations**

Continued prayers for Sue Peterson and Deb Elliott.

We celebrate the baptism of Chloe Elizabeth Cook, daughter of Stephanie & Justin.

We celebrate the results of Miracle Sunday and the anticipation of repairing and restoring our church home.

## Peace with Justice Sunday June 23rd

The United Methodist Church has six special offerings throughout the year which highlight important emphases of our denomination. The Sunday after Pentecost is typically Peace with Justice Sunday, but because we have just concluded the Capital Improvement Campaign's Miracle Sunday and because of the devastating tornados that have hit the Midwest, we decided it was better to delay it to **June 23**. The Peace with Justice Offering allows The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs: in Liberia, we provide a place for former child soldiers to live, recreational activities to address war trauma and basic necessities such as fresh drinking water and medical treatment. The Upper New York Conference receives half of the offering and the other half goes to the global church.

**UMCOR** It seems commonplace now to hear of a natural disaster every few months or so. Whether it is a tsunami in Southeast Asia or tornados hitting Oklahoma, we know that the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is there. UMCOR provides money and much needed supplies on the ground much quicker than most governmental agencies. In September of 2011, UMCOR delivered 100s of flood buckets to Middleburgh after the remnants of Hurricane Irene swept through the state. When you give to UMCOR, 100% of your gift goes to the disaster relief, unlike many other non-profits where overhead could be upwards of 20%. All administrative and publicity costs for UMCOR are paid for from a separate offering. If you would like to make a donation to UMCOR after seeing the devastation in Oklahoma, write a check to SUMC with UMCOR Oklahoma tornado in the memo line.

## Thank you!

If your Aunt gives you a sweater, you say "Thank you". If a friend gives you a book, you say "Thank you". But how do you say "Thank you" for the special support given by this congregation. The beautiful prayer shawl, the cards, calls and special prayers and gestures have all meant more than I can say. My surgery went very well but I am still facing chemotherapy. I will learn more about that next week. Like most cancer patients there will be life long regular check-ups. Before the surgery a couple of people asked me if I was afraid and I said "No". All my life I have felt that God was looking out for me. Once I knew I had the right doctors there was no fear; only peace. My experience in the hospital was very positive and interesting. Albany Med is a microcosm of the world; two young male nurses who got their degrees from Maria College, a young male nurse from Iraq who said we don't know how lucky we are to be able to lay our heads down at night without any worries; the Israeli Doctor who had served in the Israeli army, the Nurse Assistant from the Philippines who has only been here 4 months with her two small children, the nurse from Japan and the constant influx of helicopters whose flight path to the helipad was directly over my room. Albany Med is the only Trauma One unit in the area so the very worst cases are flown in from all over. Every time I heard a chopper, I knew someone had reached the care they desperately needed.

Thank you to all of you. Never doubt the value of this church and its people. You can't be replaced. I hope to see you all before this is printed. (5-17-13) -Susan Peterson

**Schroon Lake Cottage** for rent in July or August for two weeks. Two bedrooms, 2-bath with deck and kayak. One week of the cost will be donated to Scotia United Methodist Church. For more details, contact Meredith Van Vorst at 410-1919.

**Music Note:** Sunday June 16 (Father's Day) is the choir's last Sunday for this season. People are invited to sign up to share their musical talents during the offering, every Sunday from June 23 - September 1. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Oded at [info@odedbenami.com](mailto:info@odedbenami.com)

## Finance Report

2013	April Month	Budget Variance Month-B/(W)	April YTD	Budget Variance YTD-B/(W)	To Prior Year Variance YTD-B/(W)
Operating Income	\$13,188	-\$2,529	\$54,443	-\$1,268	-\$147
Operating Expenses	<u>\$13,953</u>	<u>-\$353</u>	<u>\$60,018</u>	<u>\$2,570</u>	<u>-\$1,421</u>
Gain/(Loss)	-\$765	-\$2,882	-\$5,575	\$1,302	-\$1,568
Capital Campaign Donations	\$475	\$475	\$1,305	\$1,305	
Capital Spending (Net of Insurance)	-\$67	\$67	\$1,333	-\$1,333	

### April Month

- \* April income was less than budget due primarily to an individual giving shortfall of \$1,684, A building use rent shortfall of \$290 and a fund raising shortfall of \$444.  
April expenses were \$353 worse than budget primarily due to the unbudgeted purchase of church membership software of \$159 as well as the timing of the pastor reimbursement expenses. The pastor reimbursement expense was over budget by \$169 in April but had been under budget in prior months. YTD pastor reimbursement expenses are still under budget.

### April Year to Date

- \* Year to date income was less than budget primarily due to a fund raising shortfall of \$419 and a building use rental shortfall of \$835.
- \* Year to date expenses were better than budget due primarily to a \$1,685 positive budget variance for Church utilities and a \$2,030 positive budget variance for church snow plowing services offset by a \$1,069 negative budget variance for church repair.

### April YTD compared to Prior YTD

- \* Operating income YTD was \$147 less than for the same period last year due to individual contributions.
- \* Expenses YTD were \$1,421 more than YTD last year primarily due to church utilities costing \$890 greater than last year and the purchase of a new computer and software totaling \$377 for the church office.

### Capital Campaign and Capital Spending

- \* The Capital Campaign has begun. As of April, \$1,305 had been contributed towards the capital campaign.
- \* Capital Campaign Spending-A total of \$846 has been spent including a \$400 down payment for the architect and \$446 to remove roof related heat tape.
- \* Parsonage Boiler-The net cost for the replacement of the Parsonage boiler was only \$487 due to insurance coverage and an individual contribution.



# Rainbow is a sign of good fortune at Scotia UMC

By Christian Vischi\*

You won't be able to miss the Rev. Megan Stowe at the Annual Conference Session. She will be the one with the hair that's orange ...

... and yellow. And red. And green.

Rev. Stowe, pastor at the [Scotia UMC](#) (Albany District), will be dyeing her hair a rainbow spectrum – professionally, and by choice – because of a deal she made with the youth at her church.

Her church is one of the 50 largest churches in the Upper New York Annual Conference, but as at just about every other church "money is tight" and "the economy is tough," Rev. Stowe said. On average, she has about 85 people in worship every Sunday.

With an aging roof on one building in need of replacement and additional damage to the church from Hurricane Irene, the congregation set out on a \$155,000 capital campaign, and to date has raised more than \$90,000. But, Rev. Stowe said, "we were struggling with enthusiasm."

She turned to an unlikely, but very important source.

"I was talking with some of our youth. How could I get them involved? We talked about they may not have a lot of disposable income, but they know people who do, and their excitement can push us forward," she said.

She also gave them an incentive: if the children raised X number of dollars, she would dye her hair. The deal was for the youth to raise \$1,000 and someone recommended rainbow-colored hair.

"I underestimated their ability and their enthusiasm," Rev. Stowe said. In one week the youth have nearly raised the \$1,000, and she has already scheduled an appointment with a hair stylist.

The roof of the Christian Education wing is a flat, rubber-membrane type dating to the wing's construction in the late 1950s.

"We have been on borrowed time for quite some time with the roof, but we have just been doing patchwork because money is tight," she said.

The true life expectancy of the roof was probably only 35 to 40 years, she said, and patching is no longer a viable solution.

"In the fall 2011, spring 2012, it became apparent that we could no longer do that. We would patch and the water would come in just a little bit farther down, so it really wasn't solving it," Rev. Stowe said.

She had only been the pastor at the church for a few months when the two-week, double deluge of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee hit.

"One whole side of our church, the masonry has just been destroyed. The walls and the plaster have disintegrated," she said. "It is incredibly sad."

She was leading worship on the Sunday during Hurricane Irene and the 14 brave souls in attendance "just watched as the water poured in the stained glass windows," she said.

The estimated cost of repairs is \$155,000; insurance denied the church's claim, and neither the church's budget nor savings can provide the needed funds.

Because her hair is brown, it first has to be bleached. Which could mean the color will stay longer than the anticipated, but "it is my understanding that it will be in for about a month," she said, and admitted that depending on circumstances – such as if a funeral requires her services – it could change.

How does she know the members of the Conference won't be able to miss her tresses at the upcoming Session? She will be on the stage as she has the honor of introducing the Black College Fund guest speaker.

"The plan, the hope, is we will have all the money in hand so we can complete the roof this summer," Rev. Stowe said. Some have made a three-year pledge, but there has been a strong push to getting the project done no later than this fall.

"We have been blessed the last two years with very mild winters, so it has not been quite so critical," but with a heavy winter snowfall, she said, there could be serious consequences.

The children are "excited and enthusiastic, and they are getting adults excited and enthusiastic," she said, and added that the goal is within range, especially thanks to clergy around the area that have helped.

"What has been exciting is I put it out on Facebook and other area United Methodist pastors have donated," she said, including her home church's choir, which took up a collection. "There is definitely an enthusiasm and a camaraderie there. Several Albany District clergy have pledged their support. We talk that we are a connectional church, and through this I have seen it.

"I am very proud of our children and our youth, that they are invested in their church home," she said. "Maybe this will empower other congregations to make sure they are not overlooking children, because they are a really important part of the church."

Look for a photo of Rev. Stowe at the Annual Conference Session on the Conference's [Facebook page](#).

*\*Christian Vischi is the communications associate for the Upper New York Annual Conference.*

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