

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 11
November 2013

Special Points of Interest:

- **Bible Study,**
Tuesday afternoons @
Hammerstone, 2:00 pm
- **Morning Prayer,**
Wednesday mornings,
8:00 am
- **Bible Study,**
Thursday mornings,
10:30 am
- **Red Cross Blood
Drive,** November 4,
12—6 pm
- **W.E.L.C.A.,**
November 9, 10:30 am
- **Parson's Closet,**
November 12 & 26,
10—1
- **Garbage Bread,**
November 15, 5—7:30
- **Bold Café,**
November 16 @
McDonald's, 9:00 am
- **Food Pantry &
Parson's Closet,**
November 23, 9:00—12
- **St. Matthew's Giving
Thanks Service,**
November 23, 6:00

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Desk	1
Council President	2
St. Matthew's Matters	3
Calendar	4
Serving Schedule	5
Food Pantry	6

From The Pastor's Desk

I want to say a word of thank you to those of you that have worked so hard the past week, while I was away at for my Doctor of Ministry class at New Brunswick. I love the way that people step up when there is a need. When Helen died, I simply had to send a text to a couple people and the cascade effect fell into place. It makes me proud to work with such wonderful people who step up to the plate whenever they are needed.

I also want to thank you all for the opportunity to go to New Brunswick to attend the week long intensive classes. I had two courses that I attended. The mornings were spent in a course called Congregational and Community Impact. We discussed the institution of the church and how we have focused so much energy inward, mostly on patches for a very broken system like our buildings, and programs for ourselves, instead of outward toward the community. Professor Yoho explained how our budgets direct our ministry instead of allowing our ministry to direct our budget, and I felt that was a very powerful statement. How often do we do that as a Church and as individuals. His argument says we should be asking the community to direct how we can best impact them, as the Church, and that by doing so we would have a much more noticeable impact as the people of God.

In the afternoon I attended a course called Wealth, Poverty, and Power in

the Bible. This course focused in on how the poor are addressed by God, as opposed to the way government has viewed the poor. We spoke a great deal about, "God's preferential option for the poor as described in Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Luke, and Galatians. I think one of the more powerful books that we used for this course is called, Global Bible Commentary. The book is filled with commentary on the books of the bible from across the world, showing how scripture speaks to their particular cultural situation. There was great conversation amongst my classmates and their presentations on how they and the congregations/ministries they work with are addressing poverty in their community, especially homelessness and food insecurities.

These two classes are just the first two of six courses I will complete over the course of this school year. As I wrap up projects for these two classes, you may hear from me as I look to understand how we can better connect with our communities to have greater impact. Overall, though, I learned that the Spirit is definitely blowing, and is blowing hard in a new way that we may not expect. I saw it amongst my classmates and I heard it in the midst of their stories. Something new and amazing is happening in the church, and we have the opportunity to be a part of it just simply by being a part of this generation.



Thankful

Council President Thoughts

Unconditional Love and acceptance. That is what God gives us,...by his Grace we are accepted just as we are. He doesn't look down on us, criticize our actions, or turn his back on us. He is there for us, waiting for us to talk to him, ready to answer our prayers which may not be what we want to hear, but through his love he cares for us, waiting for us to turn to him. This past spring an 84 year-old lady requested to be baptized and Pastor met with her and planned her baptism. She didn't attend our church and the friend that requested Pastor meet with her isn't a member of our church either, but God doesn't care. Pastor was there for her, her family, and her friends, letting them know that God's Grace was there for her. She was near the end of her life and this past week she passed away. I attended her funeral, not really knowing her or her family, but I could feel the love for her from the little one running around, barely able to walk, looking at the pictures and saying 'Grandma' to her sisters who had sadness in their hearts but their love for her showed in their eyes. This lady lived a long, God-filled life. One of her granddaughter's became a Pastor, she conducted the funeral. Questions Pastor and I had were why wasn't she baptized before

this, but it wasn't for us to ask. My question for me is when did I or we stop having such unconditional love and acceptance for others? My grandchildren have it, I hope it is a long time before they conform with society and lose it. I know I judge people, not that I feel I'm better than anyone, but I judge actions and that is hurtful of others. I try to be an honest person and accepting of all, but then that little voice in me starts thinking critical things about others. I picture that voice as Satan or a little devil on my shoulder edging me on. I find fault with others and not looking at those same faults in myself. I truly wish and pray that I would be a better person, a better grandmother, mother, sister, church member, .. the list goes on, but God knows I'm not perfect and guess what? He still loves me and accepts me just as I am, unconditional love. None of us know how long we will be here on earth, in our earthly bodies, I sure hope for me it is another 30 to 40 years, but reality is I could be gone tomorrow. I guess what I'm trying to say is God loves us all, just the way we are, he is with us, helping us to make the right decisions, say the right things that are not hurtful to someone else, but we are human, Jesus was the only perfect

person. Pastor isn't perfect, my children aren't perfect, my friends aren't perfect, and I know my darling grandchildren are not perfect, but God sees us as perfect. So I will try and I will ask each of you to try not to listen to that little voice on your shoulder that says to talk bad about others, look at the negative in others, and put that 'halo' on our head's saying we are better than others. When it comes our time to leave our earthly bodies and our souls go to 'heaven' to be with the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, can we go with a clean heart knowing we were the best person here on earth that God wants us to be.

Here are a couple of thoughts from a person I believe tried to live a Godly life everyday... Mother Teresa:

"To love and be loved, we must know our brothers and our sisters, for knowledge always leads to love, and love in action is service.

Our work is only the expression of the love we have for God.

Keep the joy of loving Jesus in your heart and share this joy with all you meet, especially your family. Let us pray. God bless you, Mother Teresa."

Judith Warner
Council President



Jean Canton had a bad fall in August and a tumor was found in her left kidney when she was x-rayed. She underwent one operation this month and will have another operation on Nov. 13th to remove the bladder canal and the left kidney, which is not operational.

Helen is hoping to see her 90th birthday. She would appreciate being kept in your prayers as she knows she is in God's hands and that He will do what is best for her.

St. Matthew's Matters

The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as "the MB," held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The meeting started at 7:03 with prayer led by Tom Collins. Lindsay began by sharing information on plans for painting the railings, clothes for the blue box, and a missing or late reimbursement for cleaning supplies. Tom Collins talked about the pastor's health insurance. The MB supported the recommendation for the Gold Plan for the pastor and her family. Pam Kostbar-Jarvis wondered if we were going to give money to the local school district. The MB decided to sit tight on outreach money until we get some information about needy students.

John Jarvis gave a report on Sunday School and Confirmation at the Chapel. Then he asked where money from the pumpkin auction will go. The MB decided to set aside \$100 for pizza at the cabin fever party and place the rest into the outreach fund. Furthermore, John agreed to be the auctioneer at the October 26 pumpkin auction. He also agreed to contact parents of our young people about the date of the event. He then explained why he would like to see painting our shed as an annual event with two sides painted each summer. His final comments were about buying and cleaning pumpkins for the auction on October 19 so that the young artists can paint them the next day. Though Pam and John will select those pumpkins, Jean Bakkom will pay for them.

John will also take care of the bee problem in the charcoal grill.

Barb Cousineau explained how she recently contacted the Sharon Springs Fire Department about grilling

halves for our next annual May barbecue. If the SSFD are unable to help us out next Spring, then the MB will arrange to bring Brooks halves back from Oneonta.

The MB discussed the Oktober Fest on October 27, which will feature the bishop, a 4:00 worship service and a meal catered by Little Italy. MB members joked about Italian food at an Oktober Fest when we had brats at last year's event.

Pam Kostbar-Jarvis raised some questions about worship logistics on Sunday morning. She also asked Pastor Sara if those attendance cards are really necessary. Pr. Sara then explained why they are. Pam also wondered where the pastor should stand at the end of worship and if we should shake her hand. Pastor Sara encouraged hand shaking after the service.

Jean Bakkom wondered if anyone has written a thank-you letter or note to Stewart's for providing ice cream, toppings, scoops, cups and bowls for our recent free community-wide ice cream social. John agreed to write the letter soon. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 7:56 pm.

At St. Matthew's Chapel there is much to be thankful besides pumpkin auctions, cabin fever parties, free Stewart's ice cream and our annual spring BBQ. Thanks be to God for all the blessings in our lives!!

In service to Christ,

John Jarvis,
MB Secretary

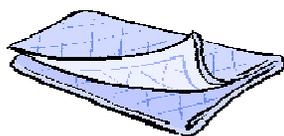
Friends of Zion & St. Matthew's,

Thank you so much for the lovely lap blanket for Gordon. It is soooo soft!

Thank you for your prayers.

Sincerely,

Sarah Emerson



Thank you for the creative and inspiring basket that you donated for the recent fundraiser for the library. It was won by Alicia Nichols but many others had their fingers crossed, hoping their name would be announced instead.

With appreciation,

Friends of the Community Library



Serving Schedule for November & December

St. Matthew's Chapel

Date	11/03	11/10	11/17	11/24	12/01	12/08	12/15	12/22	12/29
Acolyte	Emma Litzner	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Allan Graulich	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich
Reader	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Jean Bakkom	Joan Jozifek	Suzanne Graulich	Tom Collins	Barb Cousineau	Janet Lynk	Joan Jozifek	John Jarvis
Greeter	Janet Lynk	Omer Cousineau	Barb Cousineau	Jean Bakkom	Janet Lynk	Allen Graulich	Jean Bakkom	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Barb Cousineau
Ushers	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Janet Lynk & Jean Bakkom	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Janet Lynk	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Omer Cousineau & Tom Collins
Communion Assistant	Lara Graulich	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Barb Cousineau	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Bell Ringer	Emma Litzner	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich

Zion Lutheran Church

Acolyte	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Rich Churchill	Christina Keller	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Rich Churchill	Christina Keller	Judith Warner
Reader	Frieda Thorington	Rose Swanhall	Bob Holt	Karen Scott	Sandy Deems	Rich Churchill	Camille Grace	Eilene Fisher	Karen Scott
Greeter	Eilene Fisher	Judith Warner	Brian Swanhall	Helen Mackey	Eilene Fisher	Lisa Borgreen	Rose Swanhall	Judith Warner	Helen Mackey
Usher	Deb Nadeau	Henry Mau	Rose Swanhall	André Nadeau	Deb Nadeau	Henry Mau	Brian Swanhall	Lisa Borgreen	André Nadeau
Communion Assistant	Eilene Fisher	André Nadeau	Lisa Borgreen	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher	Bob Holt	Judith Warner	André Nadeau	Lisa Borgreen
Elevator	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Eileen Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge
Altar Guild	Karen Wilson & Frieda Thorington								

Zion Lutheran Church 615 E. Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043

518-234-3381

www.zion-coby.org

2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor's Sabbath	2
3 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 Zion Svc. 11:00 am	4 Red Cross Blood Drive 12—6 pm	5 Hammerstone Bible Study 2:00 pm	6 Morning Prayer 8:00 Christmas Collab. 1—2 pm	7 Bible Study 10:30 am	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
Cross-Gen Worship 4:30 pm	Finance Cmte. 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	Ministry Board 7:00		Worship Cmte. 7:00		
10 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 Zion Svc. 11:00 am	11 Veteran's Day 	12 Parson's Closet 10—1 Hammerstone Bible Study 2:00 pm	13 Morning Prayer 8:00	14 Bible Study 10:30 am	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16 Bold Café @ McDonald's 9:00 am
17 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 Zion Svc. 11:00 am	18 	19 Hammerstone Bible Study 2:00 pm	20 Morning Prayer 8:00	21 Bible Study 10:30 am	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23 Food Pantry & Par- son's Closet 9—12
24 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 Zion Svc. 11:00 am	25 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	26 Parson's Closet 10—1 Hammerstone Bible Study 2:00 pm	27 Historical Society 7:00	28 Thanksgiving 	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30 Giving Thanks Svc. @ St. Matt's 6:00 pm
Hospice Tree of Lights Service 1—3	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm		Morning Prayer 8:00			

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
with St. Matthew's Chapel
615 E. Main St.
Cobleskill, NY 12043**

Zion's Food Pantry

On September 21, 2013 there were 39 households (86 individuals) who came for assistance. Fresh produce was provided from Shaul Farms. There was a mix-up with the milk from Price Chopper (a cart full was left behind) so some clients did not receive milk. Left-over bread, milk, and eggs were donated to Catholic Charities. God blessed us with 18 volunteers and two young men doing community service. The boys were very efficient and helped carry groceries from pantry to clients to parking area.

Our pick-up date for October is the 9th, which means we will again make a trip to Shaul's for fresh produce. Our pantry is open October 26 and the Regional Food Bank truck's second trip to Cobleskill is the 30th.

God has blessed us in so many ways and continues to send us volunteers and donations. (Thanks to all for the Trash & Treasure donations!)

Pantry Days 9am—Noon

November 23, 2013

December 21, 2013

Sandy Deems,
Food Pantry Coordinator

