

CONTACT US!

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

or by appointment.

Office Phone

(508)987-1248

email Pastor Simon

rev.simon@charterinternet.com

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oxfordzion@charterinternet.com

Website

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Emergency Pastoral Contact:

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Zion Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2010

LENT

Our Lenten worship will continue with a special partnership with our brothers and sisters at the Oxford United Methodist Church and the First Congregational Church of Oxford. We will gather for a light meal and a worship service on Tuesdays during each week of this season of reflection. I am pleased that our previous partnership with our Methodist friends has expanded to include the people of the First Congregational Church. I am also looking forward to welcoming Pastor Paula Fletcher (OUMC) and Pastor Sam Young (FCC) to lead worship and share the good news at Zion. There is a detailed schedule included in this newsletter with all of the dates, times, and places you will need to be a part of this Lenten series.

I pray also, that as we have added new friends to our worship, that you and I will add some new spiritual disciplines to our lives this Lent. Whether you covenant to read the Bible each day, pray more regularly, or volunteer in your community, I hope that we will find new possibilities for growing in God's grace as we worship, pray, and serve together.

God's Peace, Pastor Andrew



**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early service

9:30 am Christian Education

10:30 am 2nd service

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1 & 22: 6:00 PM
Stephen Ministry Supervision
and Continuing Ed.

February 9: 7:00 PM Church
Council Meeting

February 17: 7:00 PM
Ash Wednesday Worship at
the Oxford United Methodist
Church

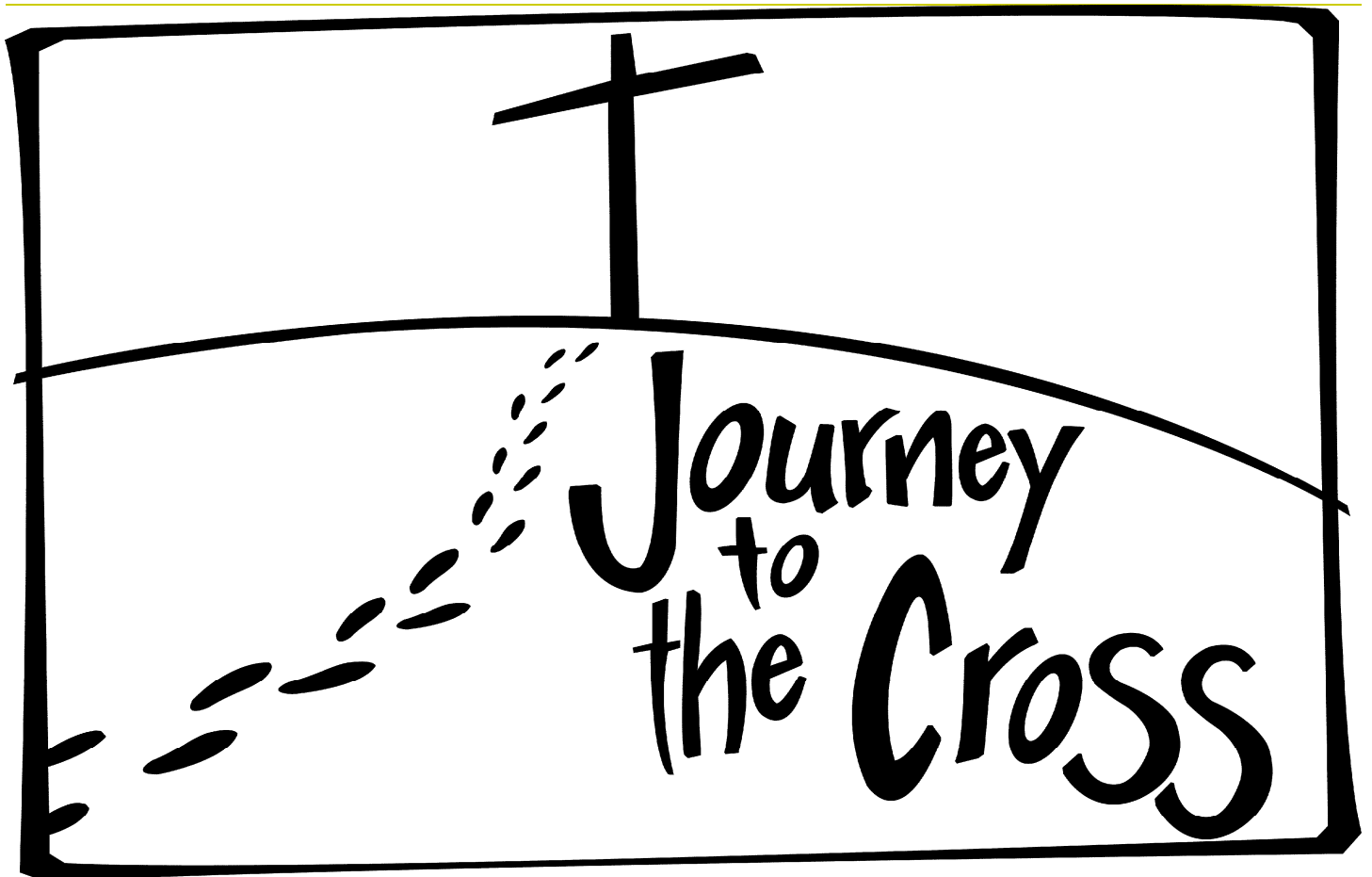
February 17: LIPY-Time TBA
Cardi Food Shelf Volunteer

February 23: Lent at Zion:
6:00 PM Soup 7:00 Worship

February 28: 1:30-5:30 PM
LIPY Roller Skating/Lazer Tag

Zion Lutheran Church
70 Main Street
Oxford, MA 01540
(508)-987-1248

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PROPERTY AND GREENING NEWS

The Property & Green Committee has had a busy month. We worked to improve the door weather stripping to help make the building more energy efficient and more comfortable. We have been working on trying out some new lights to get more light but use less energy. There are some sample bulbs in the first row of lights on the left. These are CFL bulbs and have a cooler, brighter light (more white/bluish than the yellow tint of the other bulbs). These bulbs are the equivalent of a 200 watt incandescent bulb but only use 65 watts of electricity. The existing bulbs are 125 watts each. So we get almost twice the light for almost half the electricity usage. We are still exploring some other options - including LED bulbs. The biggest challenge we face is how to replace the bulbs in the higher fixtures. There is a tool we have but it is difficult to use and will not work on the CFL twist bulbs. Anyone with experience and/or some equipment that can help us meet this challenge please see a member of the property committee.

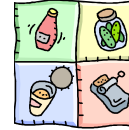
Another improvement has been the sound system. Recently, Jeff Murray installed some new speakers in the rear of the church, a new amp, and we are looking to integrate some new wireless mics as well. This improves the sound in the back of the church and directs it forward so everyone can hear the people speaking better. The results so far have been great.

If you have any feedback on the lighting or the new sound system please feel free to pass it along so we can be sure we are moving in the right direction.

This month's greening tip is about recycling. A company called Recycle Bank allows you to collect points for the amount of recycling that you give your trash company. Cassella Trash uses this service and it may be available through yours. The points you collect can then be used to get discount coupons for groceries, or used to purchase other goods. They also tally how many trees and how many gallons of oil your personal recycling efforts have saved. Check it out at www.recyclebank.com.



WORSHIP NEWS AND NOTES



Dot Sundman,
Worship Chair

FOOD PANTRY AWARENESS DAY

Beginning in February we would like to designate the first Sunday of each month to be a "Food Pantry Awareness" day. We are asking everyone worshipping that Sunday to donate \$1.00 and or a non-perishable food item. By donating cash to the Food Pantry it enables them to buy the items they need most at reduced prices. Please consider making a donation to help those in need during these difficult economic times. We will have our first collection on **Sunday, February 7, 2010.**



FLOWER CHART

The 2010 Flower Chart has been posted on the church entryway bulletin board and ready is for those interested in signing up for flowers.



SNOW CANCELLATION

In the event of a snowstorm, notifications for cancellations at Zion will be recorded on the church voicemail. If you have a question about whether or not worship services or other activities are still on, call the church office at 508 987 1248. **If they are cancelled, the message will reflect that.**

SOCIAL MINISTRY

In a joint effort with **Concordia Lutheran Church in Worcester**, Social Ministry is asking for your assistance to provide help in resettlement of Liberian refugees. We are in need of "gently used" sheets, blankets, towels and kitchen utensils such as pots, pans, silverware and dishes. Donated items should be delivered during January through mid February. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Steege or Paula Clark.



CLEANING

Week of:

February 1: The Siegmunds

February 8: OPEN

February 15: OPEN

February 22: OPEN



COFFEE HOUR

Sunday:

February 7: Pat Cheever

February 14: The Lukaseks

February 21: OPEN

February 28: OPEN

Keys are available from Karen in the office or from Mike. Directions for coffee hour are on the inside of the cupboard door in the kitchen. Cleaning instructions are in the closet in the fellowship hall. We need volunteers for cleaning and for coffee for the month of February. If you can fill in any of the above dates please call Karen at the church or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

STEWARDSHIP

Fellow Christians with the Turkey dinner, temple talks, pledge cards and giving out of the envelopes completed, some now feel that stewardship is over until next fall. Stewardship is a year round commitment. It is not just about giving our money back to the Lord, it is how we live each and every day. Rejoice in each and every new day and thank the Lord for all he has given us. Are you using your time and talents in a way that enhances your Christian beliefs? Make this the year that you prayerfully consider what the Lord wants of you. Is this the year that you get involved in a church committee, Sunday school, Stephen Ministry, Worship, food pantry, coffee hour, cleaning of the church or some other ministry to serve our Lord?

With the winter snow storms and inclement weather, attendance is sometimes difficult on Sundays or Tuesdays. This is a perfect time to try "E-GIVING", miss a week of two don't worry about trying to play catch up. With e-giving it is all done automatically. It is simple, you do not need a computer or any special equipment. Questions about e-giving.....ask Mike, Amy or Ossie and we will be glad to answer all your questions.

Have you turned in your pledge card yet???? If you lost your pledge card there are more in the back of the church or just ask Karen, Pastor Andrew or Mike.

Interested in finding out more about Stewardship?????? We are looking for a couple new members, just tell Karen, Pastor Andrew or Mike and we will be glad to sign you up.



Coffee hour and cleaning signup sheets are on the back wall in the church. Pick your week before someone else takes it. Let's see how many different families we can get to do either coffee hour, cleaning or both this year! Let's make 2010 a record setting year. A great big thank you to those families that have helped out last year.

Yours in Christ, Mike Bellisario

Stewardship Chair

*Don't
Forget*

OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the narthex waiting to be picked up. If you have not yet taken yours, help the church save postage by finding them so they don't have to be mailed.

Thank You!



SHELL PROJECT

The Stephen Ministry's special cut shell project will once again offer the special crosses for Easter. Orders must be placed by March 7th for delivery the week before Easter. The cut shell cross is four cut strombus accented by whole or cut shells and set with a pearl or colorful center. For a quick peek at one of the crosses go to our display in the Narthex. The orders must be prepaid and are \$8.00 each. There are few in stock with a more limited choice of center. We also have stars and angels in stock.

By request I will be placing an order at the beginning of February for a cute panda bear. He is made from a sea urchin and can be accented in a red, green or nearly any color ribbon you wish. He will also be \$8.00. I have no samples to show only a picture.

Please give me a call and I will meet you at the end of either service on Sunday or we can make some other arrangement.

This fundraiser goes to help defray some of the Stephen Ministry's expenses and we do appreciate everyone's support of our project. Carol Weinhardt 508-461-7424



ENDOWMENT FUND
 Given in memory of Esther Wood
 by Dr. Walter Schur
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
 Given in memory of Loved ones
 by The Keegan Family

- HAPPY
 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!**
- Jennifer Baublitz 01
 - Jeff Lundquist 03
 - Frances Jacobson 06
 - [Kayla Champoux 7](#)
 - Norma Peterson 08
 - [Kathryn Champoux 9](#)
 - Simone Arent 11
 - Rebecca LeBoeuf 12
 - Betty Keegan 14
 - Thelma Shell 15
 - David Basins 15
 - Victor Lempicki 17
 - Lisa Betrovski 18
 - Sarah Craley 18
 - Robert Blood Jr. 19
 - Pauline Kindler 19
 - Nathan Craley 21
 - Louise Cyr. 21
 - Ethan Piehl 23
 - Katelyn Betrovski 25
 - David Bernier III 28

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Radzik, Dennis Mercer, Matthew Karp, Sten-Eric Westin, Walter Schur, Phyllis Holst, Katharina Flynn, Joyce Cozzens, Al Killian, Louise Cyr, Jackie Bean, Fran Chlapowski, Rebecca Chlapowski, Esther Elliott, Tom Mallett, Fred Grindle, Eleanor Gadoery, Mala Abdella, Ruth Jenks, Josie Hendrix, Raymon Angel Nunez, Pamela Foy, Jeri-Lynn Berlin, Janet Abissi, Cherie Dittmer, Ron Johnson, Sandy Howland, Bruce Arnott, Arthur Siegmund, Ruth Witthoef, Brian Quinlan, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, Debbie Monaco, Matthew Lucas, Lois Austin, John Dunphy, Frank Abissi, Ronny Waters, Katie Schmidt, Patricia Mokaba, Rev. Don and Rev. Peg Olson, Theresa Bromme, Patz and Robert Clark, Gilbert Thibeault, Alexia Clinton, Wilma Miller, Frank Maher, Margarethe Johnson, Mark Blamire, Barbara Hasenberg, David Marcoux, Robert Nowak, Kathy Witt, Rocky Miller, Jim McGovern, Norman Clark Jr., Albert Risner, Anne Bayer, Phyllis Watkins, Isabel Cannalonga, Mary McIntyre, Helen McGovern, Susan Rohr, Bob Blood Jr., Geraldine Maher, Dolores Masi, John Laverne, Michael Gustafson, Diana Powers, Peter Pierce, David Healy, military personnel serving our country at home and in the Middle East especially Eric Streich, Matthew Cremonni, William Jakola, Brandon Morin, Joel Daoust, Rob Snow, Dedrick Baublitz, Michelle Ramsey, Richard Ramsey, Barbie Miller; and Jesse Meagher; Christians in the Middle East; our partner Synods the ELCJH and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the Lutheran Church in Honduras.



STEPHEN MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Stephen Ministry National Leadership Training Conference

Congratulations Pam Olson!

Pam attended a week- long Leadership Training Conference (LTC) in Orlando, Florida in January. This conference is for Leadership training for Stephen Ministers to serve in the implementation of the Stephen Ministry program in our congregation. Pam will be commissioned as a Stephen Leader at a forthcoming Sunday Worship service. Thank you Pam for preparing for and accepting this additional responsibility!

Anyone knowing Pam knows that, by nature, she exudes positive energy in whatever she does. We are blessed to have that energy now incorporated into her leadership training. Pam will now assume full responsibility as an Awareness Coordinator in Zion's Stephen Ministry program.

Stephen Minister Training

A new Stephen Minister training class at Zion is being planned to start this spring with a target date of mid-March. Our urgent need is for men to be added to our team of ministers. Mike Bellisario, our only current male Stephen Minister will be moving this summer. Since Stephen Ministers meet with only same gender persons, this leaves a gap in our ability to provide support to any men.

Plans are for a class of a minimum of six persons. Applications may be obtained from the church office or from any Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry Information Evening

An informal information night is being planned for an evening in February. Please watch for the announcement of this date. This evening is intended for anyone desiring to know more about this ministry with a specific focus of helpful information to persons considering applying to be a Stephen Minister themselves. **See separate page titled "Has God Given Me Gifts that could be used to serve as a Stephen Minister".**

For any questions or concerns please see Pat Bean, Team Coordinator (508-943-2762) or any of our Stephen Ministers. (You will recognize them by their name badges on any Sunday Morning!) Stephen Ministers will be readily available to you on any given Sunday in February, both in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. During the month of February when society thinks of "caring hearts" we encourage you to "Think Stephen" for any heart that needs some support. Our Stephen Ministers always stand eager to respond to God's command to us all to "care for one another even as He so cares for us"!



**Has God Given Me Gifts That Could Be Used
To Serve As a Stephen Minister?**

GIFTS:

1. I have a heart that cares about others.
2. I enjoy listening to others----or----people seem to talk to me easily.
3. My Christian faith is important to me.
4. I would like to be more confident in how to help persons who are experiencing challenges in their lives.
5. I would like to grow in the areas above.

Stephen Ministry seems to be “drawing me”. I often wish or wonder if I could be a Stephen Minister.

TIME:

1. I could adjust my life to commit to two Monday evenings a month and one hour per week to visit with a person desiring Stephen Ministry support.

I would like to feel a renewed sense of purpose in my life.

ASSESSMENT:

*If you are answering positive to many of the statements above,
God may be calling you to this ministry.*

An Invitation

We invite you to join us for an informal night to gather more detailed information,
and ask questions toward assessing whether this ministry may be for you.

LENT 2010

This year, we will be celebrating Lent with our friends at

The Oxford United Methodist Church

(465 Main Street)

and

The First Congregational Church of Oxford

(355 Main Street)



Ash Wednesday February 17: 7:00 PM at

Oxford United Methodist Church



Tuesday Soup and Bread Suppers at 6:00 PM,

followed by worship at 7:00 PM.

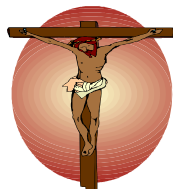
February 23: Zion Lutheran Church

March 2: First Congregational Church

March 9: Oxford United Methodist Church

March 16: Zion Lutheran Church

March 23: First Congregational Church



Good Friday April 2: 7:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church