

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

**CONTACT US!
OFFICE HOURS**

T-F (Karen)
NOON-3:00 PM

Office Phone
(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden
admin@oxfordzionchurch.org

Website
www.oxfordzion.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact
The Rev. John Nieman
508-829-6707

Zion Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2011



As we enter a new year there are several passages of scripture that speak to us about the unknown we will face in 2011.



SUNDAY MORNING:

**9:00 AM Early
Service**

9:30 AM Christian Ed

9:45 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM 2nd Service

TUESDAY

6:00 PM

We might ponder the words in Exodus 33 where the Children of Israel were camped at Sinai, and God told them it was time to move on. But Moses is fearful of moving on, and he says, "If your presence does not go with us, do not send us from here." We may have some of that same kind of apprehension as we face the unknown of 2011; and God's answer to Moses may speak to us also, as God said to him, "My presence will go with you." We too count on that divine presence to guide us along the way in days and months to come.

Those folks did reach the Promised Land, after having come through times of doubt, of indecision, of failure—and God's presence did go with them, as He had promised. In order to remind folks of that divine presence, their leader, Samuel, set up some stones along a widely traveled road; and he called this stone-monument, Ebenezer (which in Hebrew means something like, "All along the Lord has been helping us.") It was to make people realize that they had not gotten to this point without God's help. And it may be so with us, too: what we have, and are, and are becoming, is due to God's help; all along the Lord has been helping us; and thankfulness is a fitting response as we move into a new year.

There are many scripture passages that address us on our journey into a new year, words that speak of divine presence like, "Lo, I am with you always." (Matthew 28), and words that speak of divine plans like "I have plans for you, says the Lord, plans...to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29). In the final chapter of the Bible Jesus says, "Surely, I am coming soon," and the final verse says, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." That may be our prayer as we go on into our future, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 2: 10:00 AM: Worship
(1 service only)

Jan. 3: Stephen Ministry
5:00 PM Leaders

6:00 PM Supervision and
continuing ed. Topic: Supervi-
sion Issues

Jan.11: 7:00 PM Church
Council

Jan. 17: Stephen Ministry
5:00 PM Leaders

6:00 PM: Supervision and
continuing ed. Topic:
Journeying Through Grief

Jan. 18: 7:00 PM Evangelism

***Yours In Christ,
Pastor John***



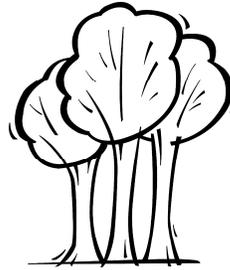
PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear friends in Christ, as we enter the New Year the council will continue to work with the call committee and the synod to find a new pastor. As we reported last month we have interviewed two candidates but have not made a selection yet. We feel this is a very important decision to make and may take some time. Although it may seem like nothing is happening I can assure you that we are working closely with synod and as soon as we have something to report we will do so. In the interim Pastor John has agreed to help us with our pastoral needs, and we thank him for that. I would ask that we all continue to ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit during this call process.

We also will start the process of reviewing the recommendations of the constitution and by law committee, this has been a long time in the process and my hope is that we can have the changes ready for our May semiannual meeting

At our Dec. meeting we discussed the issues raised at the recently held congregational meeting, and have made some changes on how the financial reports will be given in the newsletter. There was also discussion on ways to cut expenses, such as making use of emailing the news letter in order to cut postage costs and up dating our current mailing list. Look for more on this in the future, we may have to purchase software to make it happen.

Bob Laurens



EVANGELISM

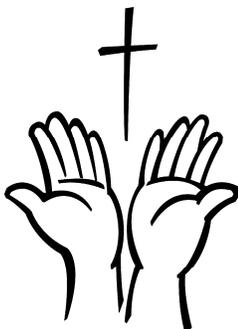
Evangelism is sometimes referred to as "The E Word". Although most Christians agree that we ought to be sharing the Gospel with others in both word and deed,

Rooted in faith there is a general fear of being too pushy or coming across as judgmental. How we share our faith does matter. We're often afraid that we do not have enough knowledge to share the message of the Gospel in a meaningful way. We are thankful for our relationship with God, but may believe that religion is a private matter, or we avoid opportunities to share for fear of offending someone.

Fear can be a huge obstacle, but faith is more powerful than fear. I once received a card that said "Faith is fear that has said its prayers." Prayer is extremely important in the ministry of evangelism. Not only does it help us to overcome our fears, it also helps to prepare us to be faithful to our Lord. It is Jesus who gave the great commission and He promised to be with us to the end of the age. When we pray we are acknowledging his presence and our need. We can pray for others and ask God to prepare their hearts to receive him and offer ourselves to minister when the opportunity presents itself. We may just discover that sharing the love of God means listening, caring, giving, helping and just being there in time of need. But what about the message? What about the Gospel? We live the message, we live the Gospel and if we are given the opportunity Jesus will provide the words.

Cecelia Jalbert Chairman

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Opportunity for Giving

Our youth group will be attending both services on Super Bowl **Sunday February 6, 2011** collecting cash donations for the "Souper Bowl of Caring". This is a yearly collection that takes place on Super Bowl Sunday in congregations across the county. The wonderful thing about it is that all of the money collected that day stays here in Oxford. Please give generously. If you have any questions please see Pam Olson.



STEWARDSHIP

Happy New Year from your Stewardship Committee!

I missed the newsletter deadline for the past two months, so this month I hope to update you with the events of the past couple of months.

In October, 24 people completed and returned the Time and Talent Survey. Around 200 surveys were sent out. A 12% return is considered a good return for a survey. If you have not returned your survey, there is still time. We will accept all the help that you are willing to offer to spread the word and work of God within our congregation and the community.

Also in October, we kicked-off the Annual Pledge Drive with a Pot-luck Dinner. There were not many attendees but the dinner and the food was great. Pastor and Mrs. Voosen joined us at the beginning of the evening for a wonderful sing-along. Next year I will plan the dinner sooner and hopefully we will have an even greater number of attendees. The dinner is a great way to kick-off the pledge drive and a great way to spend an evening out with friends.

In November, we received the pledges for 2011 back from a number of people. The results are below. As you can see, this year 18 fewer pledges were returned and 45 more pledge cards were send out. If you have not returned your 2011 pledge, it is not too late. We will accept your pledge at any time.

2010 Results 2011 Results

Number of cards sent	126	171
Number of Pledges	61 (48%)	43 (25%)
Total Pledged	\$108,216	\$72,051
Estimated Weekly Amount	\$2,081.18	\$1,385.60

In December, the 2011 Offering Envelopes were distributed. If you did not received a set of envelopes and would like to get a set, please see me or send me a note and I will get you a set of envelopes. Thank you.

May God's peace be with you always as we look for opportunities to serve God and our church,

Susan Pierce

To Zion's Family

Bernie, Kelly, and I wish to extend our deepest gratitude to those of you who touched Louise's life. Your prayers, loving concern, and friendship did brighten her days.

A special thank you to the Visitation Team and the members of the Card Ministry. Louise cherished each visit and saved each and every card. You are indeed special.

We also wish to thank all of you for your prayers, support, cards, words of comfort and understanding during this sad time. It is comforting to be surrounded by such caring people.

**Peace and Love,
Bernie, Carol, and Kelly**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Emma Grace Jonasch 05
- Debbie Plaza 06
- Carol Weinhardt 06
- Richard Piehl 08
- James Williams 12
- Linda Devlin 13
- Krysten Woods 14
- Carol Piehl 17
- Siiri Jonasch 17
- Justin Desmarias 18
- Kelsey Bergeson 19
- Kristina Canty 21
- Kurt Redlitz 23
- Jeff Makowski 24
- Alice Grzlecki 27
- Jayne Boutilier 28
- Isabel Canolonga 29
- Braden Levasseur 30

I LOVE MY CHURCH!
I LOVE MY COMMUNITY!
FAITH*HOPE*CHARITY!
DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT FOR ALL!

FEBRUARY 5, 2011

5:30 pm

Bring a friend. Bring your family.

Please join us for a night at "our" church with fellowship, movies and dinner. We will have something for all ages. We will start the night with a Pasta Dinner followed by dessert. We will have an opportunity to watch a movie on the Big Screen in the sanctuary with buttered popcorn. This is a great time to join and enjoy each other's company. Please R.S.V.P by Jan. 30th.

More details will be provided in the narthex as we approach the date. We are focusing on Faith* Hope & Charity. With that in mind, we are asking that you bring in a donation of food for the Oxford Food Bank. We will have a box set aside during the meal.

Thank you, Lisa Betrovski & Hospitality



STEPHEN MINISTRY



The winter weather we've had recently can be symbolic of what can sometimes happen in life. A crisis hits and we feel like we're buried beneath a drift of snow. Relationships can become "icy," or we can feel "frozen" by life circumstances. Little difficulties build up like "slush," making us slip and slide, causing every decision to seem treacherous. Life seems dreary, and we begin to doubt if spring will ever come. We can wonder, "Is God even there?"

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care, giving you the emotional and spiritual support you need to make it through a "winter" in your life. To learn more about how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know, contact one of *Zion Lutheran Church* Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Pat Bean, Jackie Bonneau, Pam Olson or Susan Pierce*. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.

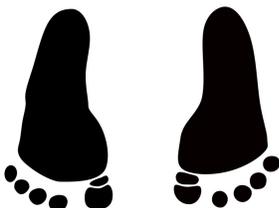
How well do you know the Stephen Ministry program here at Zion?



January is Stephen Ministry month at Zion and we want you to start the New Year off on the "right foot". We have events planned for each Sunday of the month starting on January 9th and look forward to seeing YOU! Watch for bulletin board changes and be here to experience an exciting variety of Stephen Ministry awareness offerings .



A Stephen Minister is someone who truly cares about you and your concerns. They are prepared to walk your road along side you listening, supporting and encouraging you as you seek balance and wholeness in your life. We are here for you as long as you need us.



A blessed New Year to you!



**FINANCIAL RESULTS
NOVEMBER 30, 2010**

	Month of	Year to	Budget YTD	Over/(Under)
	November	Date	11/12	Budget
Operating				
Revenue	\$ 9,664.40	\$ 109,799.62	\$ 146,930.67	\$ (37,131.05)
Operating				
Expenses	\$ 9,577.10	\$ 106,067.13	\$ 146,930.67	\$ (40,863.54)
Income Net				
of Expenses	\$ 87.30	\$ 3,732.49		\$ 3,732.49

Expenses	Year to	Budget YTD	Over/(Under)
	Date	11/12	Budget
Salaries	74,032.57	106,520.33	(32,487.76)
General Administration	12,288.41	12,814.08	(525.67)
Property	15,036.15	20,579.17	(5,543.02)
Education	1,016.44	2,704.17	(1,687.73)
Worship	2,610.38	2,319.17	291.21
Stewardship	470.60	618.75	(148.15)
Evangelism	-	275.00	(275.00)
Social Ministry	25.00	183.33	(158.33)
Ecumenical Council	25.00	91.67	(66.67)
Stephen Ministry	262.58	825.00	(562.42)
Reimbursed expenses	300.00	-	300.00
	\$ 106,067.13	\$ 146,930.67	\$ (40,863.54)

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer



Gifts and Memorials

ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Al Rizner

Walter Schur

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Walter Schur

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Jayne Boutilier

Lee White

Conrad Redlitz

Charlotte Galvin

Brian and Bernice Paquette

Mary Lonergan

Ann Stochaj

Pearl Benoit

Tom and Felicia Balcom

Edward and Mary Jaskolski

Cecelia Brisbois

Dolores Perry and Family

Douglas and Debra Burton

Walter Jackel

Walter and Anne Jackel

John and Catherine Preissler

Patricia Betley

Kris and Amy Canty

In Memory of Al Rizner

Dorthea Melton

In Memory of Ruth Schur

Rev. Maureen and Alan Hawksley

In Memory of Brian Siegmund

Isabel Cannalunga

HISTORIAL FUND

In Memory of Brian Siegmund

Barbara Steege

In Memory of

Donna Cannalunga Harris

Barbara Steege

Paul and Geraldine Siegmund

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Paul and Geraldine Siegmund

Ron and Karen Johnson

Barbara Steege

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Janice Masi

Jean and Paul Peterson

Ed and Shirley Rossmeisl

CARD FUND

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Bernie, Carol and Kelly Cyr

Esther and Glenn Elliott

In Memory of Ruth Schur

Rev. Ken and Pat Bean

STEPHEN MINISTRY

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Rev. Ken and Pat Bean

In Memory of Jackie Bean

Richard and Paula Clark

In Memory of Gail Gaboriault

Rev. Ken and Pat Bean

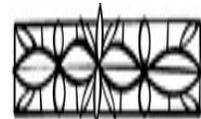
**PRAYER
LIST**

Below is listed the updated Prayer List, and members are listed in bold print. If you have forgotten to complete a form to remember someone via our Prayer Request List, forms are available next to the Prayer Request Box in the Narthex. Should you have questions, feel free to contact a member of the Prayer List Committee. Thank you.

Sue Butchman

Jean Peterson

Sue Schade



Remember in Prayer

David Clifford,

Brian Cole,

Debbie Forsman,

Pamela Foy,

Margarethe Johnson,

Joanne McCue,

Marilyn Siegmund

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

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