

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

oxfordzion@charterinternet.org

Website

www.oxfordzion.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact

The Rev. Edward Voosen

508-892-5537



Zion Lutheran Church October 2010



Dear Zion members,

Because of you ZION is here to share **Word and Sacrament**, to provide **education** for children and adults to provide **comfort or counsel** as needed, to celebrate **Baptisms, First Communions, Marriages, and Confirmations**, to provide **inspirational music** for worship and for our communities, to be an important way of **helping the needy of the world through our support of world-wide missionary efforts**, to be here for **fun and fellowship**, and **this is accomplished through dedicated Christians giving generously and sacrificially.**

The Biblical concept of giving is **proportionate** giving – giving a percentage of your income. A gift of \$50 per week would be a tithe (10%) for someone earning \$25,000 per year or 5% for someone earning \$50,000 per year. If you are not tithing I hope you will consider growing towards tithing by giving at ½ tithe - 5% of your income this year or to add 1% if you are beyond 5%.

Everything belongs to God – we simply manage what God blesses us with during our time on earth. God clearly asks us in the Scriptures (see the TEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR CONTEMPORARY STEWARDSHIP) to express our loyalty by returning a percentage of our time, talent and treasure. We are asked to set aside that money as a first priority – our first check - **then** build our budget for daily living. It is not ours - but God's. This method has worked well for Ruth and I and we have been able to grow in our giving through the years.

Zion's budget is built from your Pledges and what can be done is up to you. Your financial support for Zion's ministries in the coming year is needed and your "Pledge" or "Faith Promise" makes it possible to plan wisely.

MARK NOV. 14TH, Loyalty Sunday on Your Calendar. Be sure to attend. More details will be coming from your Stewardship committee.

YOUR LOYALTY TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH IS NEEDED AND DEEPLY APPRECIATED!

On a personal note:

Thank You for your kindness to me while serving at Zion – it has been a privilege and a joy!

May God Bless You, **Pastor Ed**



**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



**OCTOBER UPCOMING
EVENTS**

OCT. 12 @ 7:00 PM

Church Council Meeting

OCT. 16: Stewardship Pot

Luck Fellowship Meal

OCT. 20 @ 7:00 PM:

Evangelism Committee Mtg.

OCT. 30 @ 10:00 AM-2:00

PM Autism Resource Center
using our building for Sibling
Workshop



TEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR CONTEMPORARY STEWARDSHIP

There is no finer biblical theology of stewardship than the one St. Paul developed in his efforts to raise an offering for the relief of the economically disadvantaged Christians in Jerusalem. This offering, and the request by Paul that the Corinthians help with it, was remarkable. Most of the Christians in Jerusalem were Jews. The Corinthian Christians were nearly all Gentiles. Hatred had stood between the two for centuries. Paul had said to the Ephesian Christians that **"Christ has broken down the dividing wall of separation"** between Jew and Gentile. The offering he gathers in Corinth is living proof of that fact! Below are the major aspects of Paul's theology of stewardship focus in **2 Corinthians 8 and 9**. This summary of the basic biblical theology of stewardship is drawn from these two chapters along with suggestions for applying these principles to the contemporary Church.

1. STEWARDSHIP IS PROPORTIONATE TO INCOME

St. Paul reminded the Corinthians that the Macedonians "gave according to their means, (2 Cor. 8:3). Stewardship is **not** giving to budgets or any other external goal designed to elicit contributions. **God asks us to look at our income and give proportionately.**

2. STEWARDSHIP MEANS THE GIFT OF YOURSELF; IT IS AN ATTITUDE.

The Macedonians gave for the poorer brethren. St. Paul says, **"but first they gave themselves to the Lord"** (2 Cor. 8: 5). Nothing - and no amount of money - is pleasing to the Lord until **we give ourselves to God.**

3. STEWARDSHIP IS THE PROOF OF THE GENUINENESS OF OUR LOVE.

The manner in which we put our money where our mouth is "the tangible demonstration of what is really in our hearts. St. Paul pointed out to the Corinthians that their participation in the offering was the way they would prove that your love also is genuine. (2 Cor. 8:8).

4. STEWARDSHIP IS SELF-SACRIFICING AND IS BASED ON THE SELF-SACRIFICE OF CHRIST.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ shared the eternal glory of the Godhead with the Father, yet for our sakes He became "poor"; He gave that all up to make us "rich" toward God through His cross and resurrection (2 Cor. 8:9).

5. STEWARDSHIP TAKES PEOPLE WHO ARE READY -"PREPARED" FOR STEWARDSHIP.

The Holy Spirit makes stewards out of people through their faith. **It is always unwise to attempt to "squeeze" contributions out of people.** Men and women must be "prepared" for stewardship "For if the **readiness** is there, it is acceptable according to what a man has . . ." (2 Cor. 8: 12).

Continued on P. 3

Continued from P. 2**6. STEWARDSHIP IS A JOINT VENTURE WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

"What I give is my business," says the cynical, self-centered "Christian." Nothing could be farther from the truth. Stewardship involves me, my brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, and Christ Himself. It is a sharing within the Body of Christ, as St. Paul pointed out to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 8: 14).

7. STEWARDSHIP IS HONEST AND HONORABLE AMONG CHRISTIANS AND NEEDS NO "GIMMICKS:"

Many people are extremely nervous when it comes to "talking about money" in the church. Stewardship is more than "money," but it is also "money." More often than not there is a direct connection between a man's wallet and his heart. St. Paul reminded the Corinthians, "We aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of men." (2 Cor. 8: 21). We do not need all sorts of high-pressure tactics and "gimmicks" to make Christian stewardship work. **WE DO NEED THE GOSPEL AS THE MOTIVATION, HOWEVER.**

8. STEWARDSHIP REQUIRES COMMITMENTS.

I don't believe in pledging, says the half-committed Christian. "Pledging isn't biblical," says the non-committed church member. St. Paul talked to the Corinthians about their pledge, their commitment, when he talked to them about "this gift you have **promised**." (2 Cor. 9: 5). Note, however, that the word he used to describe their commitment was not pledge, but promise. "Pledge" really talks about money, "promise" talks about a response to God's promises and is a **faith-word**. Nonetheless, the Corinthians pledged!

9. STEWARDSHIP IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR FAITH IN THE PROMISES OF GOD.

Note the "string" of promises St. Paul holds out to the Corinthians. **That** is the answer to motivation for Christian stewardship. CHALLENGE THEIR FAITH! Look at the promises St. Paul held out:

"He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6.

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance." 2 Corinthians 9: 8.

"He (God) . . . will supply and multiply your resources." 2 Corinthians 9: 10.

"You will be enriched." 2 Corinthians 9: 11.

"You will glorify God by your obedience." 2 Corinthians 9: 13.

10. STEWARDSHIP IS OUR WAY OF ACKNOWLEDGING AND SHOWING OUR FAITH IN THE GOSPEL.

Finally, there is a tangible way to show that we believe the promises that God has given us in Christ. We need to give in order to draw on all the promises God has made us of blessing on our obedience. St. Paul said, "Under the test of this service, you will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the Gospel of Christ." (2 Cor. 9: 13). Stewardship is the acid test of where our faith and our hearts are!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends in Christ;

During the past month the Council has been hard at work preparing for the fall worship season. Sunday school will open in early Sept; with a Rally Day. We will continue with our current worship schedule, holding early service out doors as long as weather permits. Plans are being made for our fall Stewardship program. And then it's on to the holidays. We continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in our search for a new pastor as we continue also to thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on this congregation and every one of us.

We are also addressing some of the concerns that were mentioned at the last Congregational Meeting. Four teams of counters have been appointed to help the Financial Secretary in her duties. They will be scheduled to work in pairs on a rotating basis .We are now planning meetings to begin the review process of the proposed revisions to the constitution and by laws .My goal is to have these ready for your approval and acceptance at our Dec. Congregational Meeting.

Yours in Christ, Bob Laurens



Stewardship

Happy October!

The leaves are turning and we are preparing for winter. We are all taking the opportunity to enjoy the last warm days of the year. Those last days to prepare the yard for winter, to gather those last vegetables from the garden, to begin the preparations for the holiday season, etc.

By now you have received (and hopefully returned) your Time and Talent Survey. I hope you took the opportunity to determine if you are 'available', as Pastor Voosen challenged us in a recent sermon. We will be using these surveys to prepare Zion for the new opportunities that lie ahead for us this coming year.

Our next opportunity will be the annual Pledge Drive. October is the time at Zion when we are reminded of Stewardship. This year, as in other years, we will begin temple talks in October and end with Consecration Sunday in November. The theme this year is discovering the opportunity to use our God-given gifts.

We will begin the Pledge Drive with a pot-lunch dinner on Saturday October 16. Jackie Bonneau has graciously offered to organize the event. This kick-off event will be followed by four Sunday of Temple Talks and Consecration Sunday on November 14.

Thank you to those who have signed-up for hosting the Fellowship time between and after the Sunday services and for cleaning our church weekly.

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

Susan Pierce



World Hunger

The New England Synod Hunger Task Force is searching for a person from Zion to serve as a World Hunger Advocate. The role of this person would be to assist Zion by keeping world hunger issues in front of our congregation. The Synod will hold training on October 16 and 17 in Vernon, CT. The director of ELCA World Hunger will be the keynote speaker at this conference. Help us to find out what our role can be in a global sense. There are so many people devastated by lack of food and water in places such as Haiti and Pakistan. **If you would like to represent Zion, please contact Paula Clark at 508-943-9134.**



Food Shelf

October is Zion's turn to service the Oxford Food Shelf. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex for volunteers to sign up to help with this very important part of our ministry in helping those in need.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Here's what our Stephen Ministers had to say about their Stephen Ministry experience.....

"Stephen Ministry is the ability to offer a shoulder to lean on in a time of need and share our faith with others"

"It is a unique privilege to have the opportunity to spend regular time with another person and be able to leave "my agendas" behind. I can relax and give these moments to my care receiver, trying to fully listen and understand, meeting them "wherever they are at", walking the road with them offering Christian love and support for as long as the need is there."

"My journey has been a journey of Faith, Hope and Love. I believe God leads us into areas where we are needed. I am happy that I was listening"

"It is an opportunity to share God's love with others"

"As a conduit for Christ in the Zion Stephen Ministry I am able to communicate emotionally, socially and spiritually. God's grace gives strength, compassion and his words that guide in these experiences."

"I felt a calling to do this. Although I was not qualified, I was willing. God took care of the rest. He does not call the qualified, he calls the willing and he qualifies them!

If you are hearing the call, please answer.



EVANGELISM NEWS

Recently Joe and I went with a friend from New Hampshire to a Scottish Festival in Quechee, VT. This has been a yearly ritual for us for a long time. I enjoy it all, the bagpipes and drums, the singing and dancing, watching the games and the food, but as a dog lover one of my favorite activities is the sheepdog trials.

The sheepdog trials are a competition where a shepherd and his or her sheepdog work together to bring a group of sheep who have been let loose at the top of the hill down into the field and into a fenced enclosure. Lots of things can and do go wrong. The sheep don't have a clue that this exercise is really good for them in the long run and that the shepherd has their safety and well being in mind. It's obvious watching the dogs that they know their job is to bring the sheep to their master, but sometimes the dog gets caught up in the excitement of the moment and ends up doing his own thing ignoring some of the commands of it's master. This is a sure way of failing to accomplish the goal. The dogs that are the most successful are those that listen to and obey their master.

While I was preparing for this article, the sheepdog trials came to mind and I thought about some of the things that we can learn about evangelism from them. Like the sheep we all have a shepherd who cares for us and wants to bring us into his sheepfold where we will be safe. Like the sheepdog our shepherd has chosen us - those who are already a part of his fold - to work with him to help bring those who are wandering through life without the knowledge of the shepherd or his love for them home to our master, the shepherd. And finally this very important work of the church is best accomplished when each of us is listening to the voice of our master and being obedient to HIM.

Cecelia Jalbert



Adult Study

Sunday Adult Forum is meeting each week at **9:45 AM**. Ken Bean and several other members are leading the group through some of the resources in the new ELCA **Book of Faith Initiative**. Please feel free to pick up your coffee and join the class. Participants may come to quietly listen or to eagerly share their insights. It's a great fellowship and learning time for all!

TREASURERS REPORT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2010

Beginning Balance 01/01/10- Operating Account		\$	1,924.06
2009 Void checks			62.00
	August		
	\$		
Income/interest	7,363.37	\$	54,281.86
	\$		
E-Giving	2,570.00	\$	25,631.97
	\$		
Other income received	113.00	\$	723.00
	\$		
Expenses	<u>(7,025.30)</u>	\$	<u>(76,456.97)</u>
	\$		
	3,021.07		
Transfer from Designated Funds			3,400.00
Check book balance as of 08/31/10		\$	<u>9,565.92</u>



Beginning Balance 01/01/10- Memorial/Designated Funds		\$	20,297.38
	August		
	\$		
Income/interest	138.75	\$	6,293.10
	\$		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	\$	<u>(4,165.60)</u>
	\$		
	6,180.89		
Transfer to Operating Acct		\$	(3,400.00)
Check book balance as of 08/31/10		\$	<u>19,024.88</u>

Beginning Balance 01/01/10- Endowment Fund Account		\$	14,664.00
	August		
	\$		
Income/interest	<u>1,004.41</u>	\$	<u>1,040.72</u>
Check book balance as of 08/31/10		\$	<u>15,704.72</u>

Respectfully submitted
 Shirley Rossmeisl, Treasurer



**COUNTING
TEAMS
AND
PROCEDURES**

For the purpose of continuity, accuracy, and accountability, the following weekly procedure has been established. Ten volunteers (five teams of two) have been secured to assist the financial secretary with the weekly counting of Zion's offerings. All counters have been instructed in a defined procedure to ensure accuracy. The importance of confidentiality has been emphasized. This procedure will also put Zion in compliance with the ELCA policy for the handling of offerings.

In recognition of the responsibility and dedication of this service, the following were installed at the 10:30 worship service on September 26, 2010. **Kim Bachand, Pat Bean, Jayne Boutilier, Sue Butchman, Sarah Craley, Sandy Maisano, Janice Masi, Susan Pierce, Carol Weinhardt, and Lee White.**

We thank them for their willingness to use their God-given gifts in this service to Zion.



Gifts and Memorials

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of Al Kilian

Janette Gion
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Spahl

In Memory of Matilda Protano

Paul and Jean Peterson
Ed and Shirley Rossmeisl

STEPHEN MINISTRY FUND

In Memory of Jackie Bean

Dot Sundman

ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Jackie Bean

Dr. Walter Schur

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Jackie Bean

Dick and Gerri Siegmund

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE FUND

In Memory of Matilda Protano

Dick and Gerri Siegmund



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Tita Sandoval 01
- Maura Aniello 03
- James Brundage 04
- Krissy Watkins 04
- Alexia Munsch 05
- Courtney Olson 06
- Nicholas LeBoeuf 24
- Kelly Cyr 08
- Megan Clark 08
- Caroline Lorkiewicz 11
- Matthew Lempicki 12
- Leah McGaughey 14
- Barbara Hasenberg 19
- Lisa Cheever 20
- Jouko Siimes 20
- Pamela Foy 22
- Jonathan Costello 22
- Lois Austin 24
- Nancy Fournier 25
- Karen Johnson 28
- Adam Schur 29
- Ryan Munsch 29



Ethel Elliott, Tristan Theerman, Ron Johnson, Joseph Vespa, William Joett, Karen Johnson, Isabel Mazarella, Andy Bowman, Carol Radzik, Dennis Mercer, Matthew Karp, Sten-Eric Westin, Walter Schur, Michael Johnston, Louise Cyr, 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, Sandy Howland, Brian Quinlan, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, Matthew Lucas, Lois Austin, Frank Abissi, Patricia Mokaba, Rev. Don Olson, Theresa Bromme, Patz and Robert Clark, Gilbert Thibeault, Alexia Clinton, Wilma Miller, Frank Maher, Margarethe Johnson, David Marcoux, Robert Nowak, Kathy Witt, Rocky Miller, Jim McGovern, Norman Clark Jr., Albert Risner, Anne Bayer, Phyllis Watkins, Isabel Cannalonga, Mary McIntyre, Susan Rohr, Geraldine Maher, Dolores Masi, John Laverne, Michael Gustafson, Diana Powers, Peter Pierce, David Healy, military personnel serving our country especially Brian Cole, John Kochinskas, Eric DeAvilla, Airman D. J. Kelley, Matthew Cremonni, William Jakola, Brandon Morin, Joel Daoust, Dedrick Baublitz, Michelle Ramsey, Richard Ramsey, Barbie Miller and Jessie Meagher.

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OXFORD, MA
PERMIT NO. 23



**Thankful Hearts
Raise to God!**