

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. Clifford Gerber
Home: 508-753-6996
Cell:508-688-4763

Zion Lutheran Church

October 2011



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NANCY

STORY TELLING

In this first newsletter article that I write to you as your new pastor I first want to tell you how eager I am to begin ministry with you. One thing I particularly look forward to in our shared ministry is story-telling. I long to hear your stories – both your personal stories and the stories of this congregation, stories of faith and doubt, stories of joys and sorrows, of life and death, of scarcity and abundance, of new and old, of conflict and peace. For it is in the telling of our stories – in the recounting of the details of when and where, of who and how – that the past becomes alive and meaningful to us all.

The Bible is in one sense a big book of stories; it is filled with the stories of God's love for God's people; it is filled with stories of how God's people learn to trust God's ever-faithful promises, and how they learn to do that in community. Our Christian life together is formed by those same stories passed down to us from our ancestors in the faith.

But this dear faith of ours is not just based in past events; it is a present thing, here and now, active and real. So I ask not only that you share with me your stories of Zion-in-the-days-gone-past, but also your stories of Zion-in-the now. How is God acting now among you – the people of Zion - here in this place, at this time? How do you experience the Holy Spirit activating you all for ministry, urging you to tell the great story of God's love for all people?

As you share your stories, I will also share my own stories with you. As we come to know each other first through our past and present, and then even more fully through the future that we begin to build together, it is my prayer that this future will be one of vibrant, lively, and faithful ministry – in which we rejoice to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all people.

I hope to share stories with you all very soon!

Pastor Nancy Beckwith



SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:45 Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Worship



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3: 6:00 PM

Stephen Ministry

October 11: 7:00 PM

Church Council

October 23rd

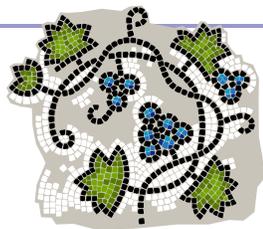
Pastor Nancy's First Sunday

October 23rd: 4:00 PM

Music at Trinity

October 30th

Gathering of commitment cards at the altar followed by a special brunch



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Sunday School 2011/2012

The new Sunday school year kicked off on September 18th! I hope everyone who attended Sunday school and Church that day is enjoying their grape jelly! Many thanks to Chris Costello for helping coordinate the jelly project!!

A special thank you to my staff of Sunday school teachers this year; I asked and you said yes – for that I am grateful! We have enough teachers for 4 classes again:

Pre-school / kindergarten – Rebecca LeBoeuf and Hailey Olson

First / second – Kayla Champoux and Pam Olson

Third / fourth – Francisco Morales and Patty Murray

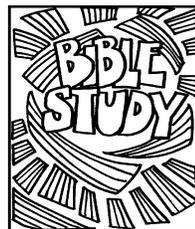
Fifth / sixth – Jennifer Baublitz and Jim Champoux

Music – Johnathan Costello

Substitute – Leah Filipkowski

Pastor Gerber will be assisting with our confirmation class until the new pastor arrives.

Our theme this year is “Jesus picked me”. I hope everyone at Zion, not just the Sunday school, thoughtfully considers what Jesus has picked them to do. Susan LeBoeuf,



COME AND JOIN US!

Our Sunday morning Bible study has resumed. Join us at 9:45 AM in the Koinonia Room for our “People of Faith” series.



OCTOBER 23RD COFFEE HOUR

We have two reasons to celebrate! This will be Pastor Nancy's first Sunday as our new pastor. Please join us for a special coffee hour and spend time getting to know one another. We will also have a baptism to welcome a new member into the life of our church. We are hoping to fill the Fellowship Hall with lots of laughter, friends, and sweet treats. Can you provide a plate for the table to share?

Please contact me at 508-248-4547 or tap me on the shoulder at church.

All Are Welcome! Lisa

enjoythejourney4@aol.com



WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Worship & Music Committee met on September 2. A motion was made and passed to purchase Worship Resource books for special services. These books will remain in the Pastor's library as property of Zion. Thank you to the Memorial Committee for funding these needed items.

The Committee continues to appeal to parishioners for help with our worship services. Especially needed are assisting ministers, acolytes, altar guild, and ushers. If you did not receive a form or have lost the one sent to you, there is a supply on the credenza in the Narthex. A **BIG** thank you to those who have indicated their desire to help and those who have been helping us in the past and wish to continue helping.

Reminder! Our new pastor, The Rev. Nancy Beckwith, will celebrate her first service on Sunday, October 23. A special “Welcome Coffee” will follow each service. Let's plan to give her a **BIG** Zion welcome! Until next time – Blessings,

Jean Peterson Worship Chair

EVANGELISM

Shared experiences have a way of bringing us together even when we were talking to someone we don't know. The recent tornado comes to mind. I have heard stories from family, friends and strangers alike on how frightening an experience it was for them and how grateful they are to be alive. Many gave God the credit for their survival as they related stories of how they would have been at their home which was destroyed if it weren't for unexpected changes in their plans. Even those who had no damage to life or property had stories of being overwhelmed by the sheer power of the storm.

On a lighter note, think of how easy it is for sports fans to relive what happened during a game giving detailed descriptions of great plays or not so great mistakes. It doesn't matter if you know the person. Once you find yourself in the company of a fan the conversation just flows. Personally, I enjoy talking with pet owners whether I know them or not. It's really enjoyable to talk about our pet's antics both humorous and not so funny and to share the way they have of becoming a very important part of our lives and our families.

We do love to hear and tell stories. Sharing our faith stories plays an important role in evangelism whether we know the person or not. Where would we be in our faith journey if others had not shared their stories with us? The Bible is full of stories about God's love and salvation. Every week we read and our pastor preaches on these stories. And just as we can be informed, inspired and or challenged by them, our own stories can be helpful to others as well as ourselves. As the old hymn "I Love To Tell The Story" by A. Katherine Hankey expresses in the first stanza:

***"I love to tell the story of unseen things
above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His
love.***

***I love to tell the story because I know 'tis
true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can
do."***

Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism Chair



NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**Submitted by Marleen Bacon,
Council Secretary**

Zion Council Notes from the meeting of
September 13, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Zion Council was opened with a word of prayer from Pastor Cliff Gerber.

Financial reports for expenses and income were given.

The Council discussed plans for Pastor Nancy's arrival at Zion and how the Council members and Congregation can help. Pastor Nancy is anxious to get to know every church member and the Council is making plans on how to do this. Photos of each Church member with some interesting facts about themselves will be placed on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

Jim Champoux discussed the investigation into solar energy panels. If you have any questions, please see Jim.

Sue LeBeouf discussed her plans for Rally Sunday and the Sunday School program. Sue has done a great job getting 8 teachers and 1 substitute. If you would like to help out or if you would like to learn more about the Sunday School program, please see Sue.

Sue Pierce from the Stewardship Committee discussed their upcoming plans for the Fall.

This meeting closed with the Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.



To our dear friends and family at Zion Lutheran Church,

It is with great joy that we contribute \$2,067.00 to Zion's Stephen Ministry Program in memory of our mother Ruth A. Schur. We hope it will benefit Stephen Ministry Leadership Training at Zion.

Our family has been helped in a powerful way as Allan's wife Sharon has Alzheimers. Their church has a caring Stephen Minister as she faithfully visits Sharon every week. This not only allows Sharon special time to share her needs and worries with a caring friend, but it also allows Allan to have some respite time to run errands, go to his doctor, clean the house etc. Our mother had a similar visitor each week at her assisted living apartment. She looked forward to her time with her new friend as they shared stories about their past and plans for the week, brought her devotional materials, and prayed together. It lifted her spirits her last years of life!

We are so glad our "home" church has the Stephen Ministry Program. Thanks to all who participate and help others in such a beneficial program. Love and God bless,

Doris Watters, Edna Opatka, Allan Schur, Janyce Duesenberg

MEMORIAL GARDEN OUTDOOR CHAPEL

I would like to thank everyone who spent time in the Outdoor Chapel and Memorial Garden dead-heading the flowerbeds over the summer. Each year the garden and chapel attracts many people. I believe this year it even attracted some deer to the area. Next year I believe I will be looking for some plants that are deer resistant. The broken bench has been replaced with a new one and it looks wonderful. More engraved cobblestones have been added to the walkway. Fall is an amazing time of year to spend outside, so I hope you continue visiting our outside area. We are so blessed!



CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY

Book Review

'WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE'
by Dr. James Dobson

Why? Is a question we have all asked when we have struggled with trials and heartaches. Why does disease, natural disaster, divorce, rejection, death or whatever trial comes into our lives and it just doesn't seem fair!

Dr. Dobson brings hope and helps us to avoid the "betrayal barrier" that comes to us when we feel abandoned by God. The book is both practical and insightful in its approach to the spiritual trials and storms of life. It is realistic and reverent and easy to read. I would recommend it to anyone who has ever asked why did this happen to me, my family, my neighbors - it is a must read.

By Carol Weinhardt

HOSPITALITY

"Let us stop saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions."

1 John 3:18 NLT

For me hospitality is action. Action is a way of serving each other with kindness and generosity. Hospitality is welcoming others to the Lord's table.

We have so many opportunities to serve and welcome others inside our church as well as outside our church. I would like to welcome new faces and new ideas to the Hospitality Team. When we have a full team, the possibilities will be endless.

Enjoying the journey,

Lisa Betrovski 508-248-4547

enjoythejourney4@aol.com





Dear Fellow Stewards,

Let us thank our Lord for the Pastor Nancy Beckworth who is coming to us this October to lead our church forward into the next phase of our growth. She will be joining us as our annual Stewardship Drive comes to an end. Let us welcome

her by living generously living in Christ!

The theme for this year's Stewardship Drive is called **Saints Alive! Living Generously**. The theme is based on the following passage:

"Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me."

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Starting on Sunday October 2 and for the following three Sundays, we will enjoy a special bulletin insert and a short temple talk related to the story told in the insert. Each story will be based on a different piece of the above bible passage.

On October 30, we will celebrate the end of our theme with the gathering of the Commitment cards on the altar and a special Brunch after service in the Fellowship Hall. Look for sign-up sheets and additional information during the month.

As I mentioned in this year's letter, we will be using these cards to prepare the envelopes for 2012. So please return your commitment card with an indication of whether or not you want to receive envelopes for 2012. If you don't already use e-giving, consider giving your regular offering via e-giving. It is a wonderful way to make your offering without having to worry about filling out your envelope each week.

Please think about the past, present and future statements I asked about and fill in a leaf for our Gathering basket. I hope to see us gather a whole basket of leaves. The completed leaves can be returned in the offering plate or placed in the Gathering basket in the Narthex. I will share some of the statements about past, present and future givers with the whole congregation through future newsletters and/or weekly bulletins.

Live generously and use God's gifts with gratitude,

Susan Pierce, your Stewardship Chairperson



MUSIC AT TRINITY

presents

A HYMN FESTIVAL:

From Age to Age the Same

**Twenty-one Centuries of
Christian Assembly Song**

Led by Mark Mummert

with the choirs of Trinity Church and
a massed choir from Lutheran
Congregations in Central
Massachusetts

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011

4:00 PM

Come to sing hymns familiar and
new, ancient and fresh, that
continue to shape the Christian
church

A gala reception follows the festival

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
73 Lancaster Street, Worcester,
Massachusetts
at the corner of Lancaster and
Salisbury Streets



STEPHEN MINISTRY

In Memory of Ruth Schur

Doris Watters, Edna Opatka, Allan
Schur, Janyce Duesenberg

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Paul Ziebell

Albert Zimmerman

In Memory of Walter Schur

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Habin

Treasurer's Report



FINANCIAL RESULTS AUGUST 31, 2011

We took in \$7,733 thousand in August and we spent \$5,557 thousand in August. Income exceeded expenses by \$2,176 dollars-- resulting in a profit for August.

For the year, we took in \$82,537 thousand and spent \$73,005 thousand through the month of August. For the year, income exceeded expenses by \$9,531 thousand.

For the 8 months of 2011, income is \$24,892 under budget and expenses are \$34,423 under budget.

The following is a comparison of 2011 actual to 2011 budget:

	August 2011	Jan-August 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 8/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Operating Revenue	\$ 7,732.74	\$ 82,536.70	\$ 107,428.67	\$ (24,891.97)	
Operating Expenses	\$ 5,556.84	\$ 73,005.37	\$ 107,428.67	\$ (34,423.30)	**
Income Net of Expenses	\$ 2,175.90	\$ 9,531.33	\$ -	\$ 9,531.33	

Expenses	July 2011	Jan-July 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 8/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Salaries	\$ 3,863.64	\$ 47,036.66	\$ 78,476.00	\$ (31,439.34)	
General Administration	\$ 780.50	\$ 8,899.76	\$ 8,952.67	\$ (52.91)	
Property	\$ 678.41	\$ 11,345.15	\$ 14,550.00	\$ (3,204.85)	
Education	\$ -	\$ 936.70	\$ 1,900.00	\$ (963.30)	
Worship	\$ 227.89	\$ 1,602.51	\$ 1,766.67	\$ (164.16)	
Stewardship	\$ 6.40	\$ 56.85	\$ 450.00	\$ (393.15)	
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ 249.05	\$ 200.00	\$ 49.05	
Social Ministry	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 133.33	\$ 66.67	
Ecumenical Council	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 66.67	\$ (41.67)	
Stephen Ministry	\$ -	\$ 238.10	\$ 933.33	\$ (695.23)	
Reimbursed expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,415.59		\$ 2,415.59	
	\$ -				
	\$ 5,556.84	\$ 73,005.37	\$ 107,428.67	\$ (34,423.30)	**

2011 Operating Budget

\$ 161,143.00

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeis, Treasurer*

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION.

Zion Lutheran is GROWING.

In the Fellowship Hall, you will be able to see it right before your own eyes! We are asking every member to bring in a photo with a few Q&As. There will be a basket in the Narthex for your photo. We will create a wall with faces, names, and a little something to help you get to know "YOUR ZION FAMILY". This will also help Pastor Nancy to get to know us. All you need to do is bring in a photo of your choice. If you would prefer us to take a picture we can do that too. Each week, as you bring them in, we can add faces and names to the growing tree. We have a lot of new members as well as members that have been part of Zion for years now. This will help our Zion Family get to know something they maybe didn't know.

The person who sits in your pew is probably much more interesting than you once thought. Did you know he or she might enjoy creating amazing Mexican meals, collecting doll houses, or riding horses? Perhaps they love antique cars, love to fish, build fairy houses, collect stamps, (etc...) Can you match faces with those hobbies? Once our Family Tree starts growing you'll be able to!

Please take part in our "Family Tree." & watch it grow.

* It would be wonderful to have this completed before Pastor Nancy begins her journey with us so please bring the photos in a.s.a.p. Thank you! Lisa Betrovski

NAME: _____

HOME TOWN: _____

HOBBIES: (fun fact)

cut and attach to your photo



**REMEMBER
IN YOUR
PRAYERS**

Deanna Briggs, Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski, Brian Cole, Liesl Voosen Fields, **Pamela Foy**, **Margarethe Johnson**, **Ron Johnson**, Jonathan MacDonald, **Doris Manzi**, Jennifer Moore, Lillian Pavovich, **Peter Pierce**, Len Pauplis, Mark Sweet.

**HAPPY OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS**

Tita Sandoval 01
Maura Aniello 03
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
Lisa Cheever 20
Jouko Siimes 20
Pamela Foy 22
Jonathan Costello 22
Nancy Fournier 25
Karen Johnson 28
Adam Schur 29
Ryan Munsch 29

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

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