

OFFICE HOURS

T-F (Karen) 12:00 noon-3:00 PM

Office Phone

(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden

admin@oxfordzionchurch.org

Pastor Nancy Beckwith

Pastor's Phone

1-508-499-8787

Email:

pastornancyb@gmail.com

Call or email Pastor Nancy to arrange an appointment or visit.

Pastor's day off: Friday

Website

www.oxfordzion.org

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:45 AM Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7-9

Youth at Hammonasset

September 12: 7:00 PM Council

September 15: 12:00-5:00 PM

Bishop Payne Retirement Party

September 16: RALLY DAY

1st day of Sunday School

September 17: 6:00 PM

Stephen Ministry

September 22: 11:00 AM

Renewal of vows/Outdoor Chapel Picnic to follow

September 29: 2:00 PM

Installation of

Bishop Elect Hazelwood

Trinity Lutheran Church

Worcester, MA

Zion Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER 2012

LOOKING AHEAD

The summer can be a great time of rest and reflection, allowing us to replenish our energies and renew our enthusiasm for work, study, church, volunteer activities, hobbies and life in general. I hope that all of you found time for renewal this summer. This newsletter is jam-packed with news and upcoming events for September. Please take the time to notice new events and schedules. There are many opportunities to try new things: take on a new role in worship leadership, join the choir or bell choir, help with Sunday School, join the Evangelism, Social Ministry and Hospitality teams, consider Stephen Ministry, help out with Property needs, and more... How is God calling you to service?

At the very end of September, we will hold what may be a new kind of worship experience for many of you. Sometimes we forget that the Last Supper took place in the middle of a real meal; Dinner Church is a way to explore that experience. As a fun and spirit-filled way to begin our conversation about Stewardship this fall, on Tuesday, September 25th, we will worship in the midst of a meal together. Please mark the date on your calendar and prepare to join us.

There are two BIG synod-wide events in September to mark the transition of our synod leadership. All are invited. On September 15th, there will be a retirement celebration for Bishop Margaret Payne, at Pleasant Valley Club, in Sutton. (space is limited, pre-registration required) On September 29th, the Rev. Jim Hazelwood, will be installed as bishop at Trinity, Worcester at a festive worship. Pastor Hazelwood has been busy preparing for his new role as bishop all summer. His letter to all of us follows. **Yours in Christ, Pastor Nancy**

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP-ELECT JAMES E. HAZELWOOD

Dear Colleagues, Congregations and Collaborative Cohorts,

I trust and hope you are all having a relaxing and enjoyable summer here in New England. I'd like to take this opportunity to write to you about a few matters.

First, I am grateful for your vote of confidence in me as your newly elected bishop. The weekend of June 8, 9 & 10 may be a distant memory for some of you, but for me it remains a vivid reminder of how the Holy Spirit can work among us in surprising ways. As you may already know, I begin my call on September 1, and the installation service is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on September 29th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, MA.

Since early June, I have begun the process of transitioning from my current call as pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown, RI. I can tell you that saying goodbye to this community I have served for nearly 20 years, has not been easy. And yet, I am pleasantly surprised at the maturity with which the people of St. Andrew are moving through this time. I have also been spending time transitioning into the office of bishop.

Bishop Margaret Payne and I have begun a series of conversations, which are intended to help make as smooth a hand-off as possible. I am immensely grateful for these meetings, but even more so for her dedication and leadership as our bishop for these past twelve years. She has been an exemplary servant and leader here in New England, as well as across the wider church. I have always believed that following a gifted leader, while more challenging, sets the stage for healthy long term progress. She has placed us in an excellent position for our future as God's people here in New England. Continued on p. 2

Bishop Elect message Continued from p. 1

Second, I've had numerous enquiries and suggestions regarding what I should attend to first as I begin this new role. I am grateful for your ideas, and welcome them. As I announced at the assembly during the question and answer period, it is my number one priority to spend the first year connecting with the people and parishes of this synod. My stated goal in that moment of Q & A was to visit every congregation in our synod within one year. While some have suggested that this goal is not possible, and I should consider revising it – I remain committed to this goal. Why? I believe in understanding one's context before initiating any goals, vision or priorities. The value of knowing who we are together should not be underestimated. In the words of one colleague, I am approaching the office of bishop in the same manner a mission developer gets to know the culture and context before starting a new mission.

Obviously, there are not enough Sundays in a year to permit a visit during worship with every congregation in the synod. Some visits may include an informal conversation with a pastor, others a structured discussion with a council, still others may be a meal with parishioners. If you or your church would like to arrange something, please feel free to contact me via Lyn Morin at [508-791-1530](tel:508-791-1530) or lmorin@nesynod.org.

In addition to more informal gatherings, I am also planning several opportunities for more structured time. The first is an initiative called Bishop-in-Residence. I want to thank Pr. Bill Bogholtz for this suggestion. I will travel to and reside in a region in our synod for a period of about five or six days. This will be a time for me to visit congregations, engage faith explorations, meet in people's homes for meals, lead worship, etc. I have begun planning the first of these with the three deans of the Vermont, New Hampshire & Maine conferences for the week leading up to the first Sunday in Advent. (November 28 to Dec. 2) We are working out the details, and more information will be forth coming. A second initiative is Bishop-in-the-city, a concept borrowed from Pr. Keith Anderson. I am working with lay people from Redeemer, Woburn, MA in planning the first of these for Wednesday, October 17 in Boston. The idea is to intentionally go where people from our congregations work. The event is designed for lay people, but anyone is welcome. We will be having lunch together in Boston, and I'll be engaging in conversation about vocation and ministry. We will engage these two ideas, evaluate, adjust and then take them elsewhere in the synod. If you are interested in being a part of these future events, please let me know.

Third. Another popular question has been around the area of staffing for the office of Bishop. As you may know from the budget that was approved at the synod assembly, financial restrictions have forced us to reduce the synod staff by one half time position. So we begin together with fewer resources at our disposal. Over time these challenges need to be taken into consideration as we make staffing plans. In the nearer term, I have asked Pastors Ted Asta, AliceKerr Laird and Tim Roser to remain in their current roles for a transition period. During that time, I will be analyzing our current needs as a synod. This analysis will include many conversations with people throughout the synod, the deans of the conferences, members of the synod council, as well as my own sense of priorities in the area of mission. Pastor Lisa Hazelwood will be stepping away from her position for the time being, to focus attention on the transition process at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. The Doing What Matters process will continue with a leadership team under the direction of Kim Bergstrand. I will be taking the initiative to make changes to our communications team, as Sister Virginia Strahan, Kathy Read, and Pastor Tim Roser conclude their responsibilities in the communication area on August 31. Barbara Lamson, Cathy Schlichte, and Lyn Morin will also continue for this transition period. I believe taking the time to plan carefully, and with intention, is the wisest move at this point in time.

In the area of communication, I want to announce to you that I have already begun actively communicating via my newly established website and blog. You can view this site off of a link from the current synod website or directly at www.bishoponabike.com. I am an active practitioner of the wide array of technological forms of communication, and I invite you into the conversation. In addition, I am developing an online e-newsletter, which will be a supplement to the NES news. If you would like to subscribe, simply go to my website and look for the newsletter section to sign up.

Finally, I look forward to serving you as your bishop. These are challenging times, but I also believe that these are times for us to begin exploring new ways of doing and being the body of Christ. I look forward to engaging in mission with you.

In Christ, James E. Hazelwood, Bishop-Elect New England Synod



Choir? Choir!!

September marks the beginning of choir rehearsals after our usual summer hiatus. Beginning this Fall, we are trying a new schedule with **rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00pm** instead of our usual time immediately following the Sunday 10:30am service. If you enjoy singing, I truly hope that you will consider joining us. Coming to a rehearsal does not obligate you to sing for multiple services or even a single service! There is no experience necessary to be part of the choir, just a love of music and a willingness to be part of a group dedicated to supporting worship at Zion.

The following is our schedule for the remainder of 2012. It includes rehearsal dates as well as those dates that the choir will sing at the 10:30am service, in addition to two other special services:

SEPTEMBER

Rehearsals: September 6, 13, 20
6:30 – 8:00pm

Sing during service: September 16, 23
warm up 9:45am

Special singing at Tuesday evening Worship September 25, 6:00pm
warm up 5:30pm

OCTOBER

Rehearsals: October 4, 11, 25
6:30 – 8:00pm

Sing during service: October 14, 28
warm up 9:45am

NOVEMBER

Rehearsals: November 1, 8, 15
6:30 – 8:00pm

Sing during service: November 4, 25
warm up 9:45am

DECEMBER

Rehearsals: December 6, 13, 20
6:30 – 8:00pm

Sing during service: December 9, 2
warm up 9:45am

Special singing at Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 6:00pm
warm up 5:30pm

Choir members are needed to support the singing on Sunday December 30th as there will be a Lessons and Carols service. Your voices placed throughout the congregation will be important on this day.

Questions? Concerns? Please feel free to speak with me before or after services, or call my home at (508) 943-1424. In Peace and Harmony, **Chris Costello**

“The only thing better than singing is MORE singing.”-Ella Fitzgerald



A NOTE FROM SUSAN LEBOEUF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Back to school shopping is well under way. Families everywhere are going to be working hard getting themselves back into that Fall routine; school, homework, practice (sports, music, etc), seeing friends, waking up earlier, going to bed earlier - and the list goes on and on. As you are working to fit everything in, please don't forget Sunday School!! We are starting up our new year on **September 16th** and the teachers have been busy preparing for our new year.

Class will continue to meet Sunday mornings at approximately 9:30 (immediately following communion during the 9:00 AM service). Children will receive offering envelopes - we will make offering part of the Sunday School hour. Together we will learn songs that I hope the children will love for a lifetime. We will learn about God and Jesus, read from the Bible, continue to learn the Lord's Prayer, 10 Commandments, and Apostles Creed. We will work on discovering what each person can do to contribute to the church (sing? acolyte? greeter? help clean? make communion bread?) We will do arts and crafts together - and most important we will have fun and laugh together. I can't wait to see everyone on **September 16th!**

THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

...needs support throughout the year.

If you have fallen behind on your financial pledge during the summer months, please try to catch up soon.

Individual quarterly giving statements have been prepared and are at the church, ready for you to pick up.

The support of all is needed so Zion can continue to be God's hands and heart in the world.



MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS: COFFEE AND CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CENTRAL SYMBOL OF OUR FAITH.

Join Pastor Nancy for a six session series about how we make sense of the Cross. At each session, we will watch a brief video presentation by David Lose, Professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary. Then we will consider the issues and questions he raises and discuss their importance in our faith life.

"[...this is] one of the enduring puzzles for Christians about their faith: how should we regard the cross? Is it a sad tragedy that we should grieve? Is it the moment of God's victory and redemption that we should celebrate? Is it the place where we stand in awe to see God's incomprehensible love poured out for us? Is it some combination of these, or something we haven't named altogether? These are important questions, not only because the cross and resurrection stand at the center of the New Testament's story of Jesus, but also because the way we understand the cross very much shapes the way we regard God. Depending on whom you listen to, the cross may signify God's anger at human sin, God's grief at human waywardness, or God's plea for us to return to right relationship. Further, more than one thoughtful Christian has asked why the cross was necessary" (Professor Lose)

The first session will be held on **Monday, September 24th, from 7 to 8:15.** After that, we will determine the remaining meeting dates based on the availability of attendees. Sign up on the bulletin board.



RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

On **Saturday, September 22nd** we will celebrate Renewal of Wedding Vows, followed by a potluck picnic/BBQ. All are welcome Weather permitting; we will hold the service in the Outdoor Chapel. Bring friends, family, dress up or down.... This is meant to be fun and meaningful at same time. **Deadline to sign up to renew your vows is Wednesday, September 12th.**



MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

Visit the Largest Collection of Russian Icons in North America

UPCOMING, LATER THIS FALL

Trip to visit the **Museum of Russian Icons** in nearby Clinton. If you are interested, sign up on the bulletin board and we will pick a mutually agreeable date and time for the trip.



LIPY (Lutheran Inter Parish Youth) KICK OFF

Save the Date!

First LIPY event of 2012-13 program year.

Sunday, October 7th 4:00 to 7p:00 PM
at

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sturbridge

Meal Packaging - We will package meals for a local food pantry , get to know each other and share a meal together.

Open to grades 7 through 12. Signed parent permission and health forms required to participate in LIPY.



CONGRATULATIONS, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Help us to keep in touch with you. If you email Karen your updated address and phone number at admin@oxfordzionchurch.org. Zion will send you a care package! Cookies, popcorn and more!



PRAYER REQUEST

Pray for our youth who join with hundreds of other youth from the New England Synod for a faithful, fun filled weekend of camping and music at Hamonasset State Park from Friday September, 7th through Sunday, September 9th.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
DINNER CHURCH: WORSHIP WITHIN A MEAL**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH AT 6 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

**THIS WILL BE THE KICKOFF EVENT
FOR OUR FALL STEWARDSHIP CONVERSATIONS: FOLLOWING JESUS**

**PLEASE RSVP BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
ON THE SIGNUP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX.**

Happy September,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are now re-energized to prepare for the end of 2012. This year we will begin the Annual Stewardship Drive a little earlier than we have done in the past. We will kick off the drive on Tuesday, September 25. The Commitment Service will be held with the final Temple Talk on October 14 and 16. The themes for this year are

September 25 –Following Jesus
September 30/October 2 – Facing the Truth.
October 7/October 9 – Acting Together.
October 14/October 16 – Sharing Enough.

Stewardship is about giving to God and about turning total control of our lives over to God. When we hear the word or topic stewardship, our first thoughts are ‘money’, ‘financial support’, etc. Actually, stewardship is about all of life – giving ourselves to God and using all God has given us in grateful and appropriate ways. Faithful Stewardship involves giving to God as

An act of worship,
 An expression of faith, and
 A discipline for spiritual growth.

An Act of Worship

The offering is an invitation to give something we value as a sacrifice to God. This sacrificial offering is what we do as an act of worship to God. The offering comes from the product of our work. In the Old Testament, the offering took the form of grain, animals, etc. In modern times, the offering takes the form of money and time. The end result is the same, an act of worship to God

An Expression of Faith

God entrusted us as stewards of his world; caring for all God has generously allowed us to use. We sometimes forget that all we have is his and claim ownership. There was no transfer of ownership! Our faith in God means that we believe that we are His – his creation, his children, his stewards, his representatives on earth. Being faithful stewards means living in a way that acts on that faith that tells us we belong to God.

A Discipline for Spiritual Growth

As Matthew said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.” (Matt 6:21). Often we interpret that statement to mean– how you spend your ‘treasure’ reveals the sort of person that you are. Jesus says “... there your heart will be”. Jesus could mean that how you spend your money reveals the sort of person you will become.

Thinking of stewardship as a spiritual discipline allows us to decide what sort of person we want to be. It is often easier to *act* ourselves into a new way of thinking than to *think* ourselves into a new way of acting. May God’s peace be with you always as we look for opportunities to serve God and our church,

The Stewardship Committee



SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

A recent meditation from *Christ in Our Home* held up "those who need food today" as a prayer concern. Referencing Mark 6:30-34, 53-56, we learn that Jesus and His disciples were set upon by crowds as their small boat returned to shore. Jesus, looking at the people, took prompt action to teach, feed, and heal the mob. Seeing that they were like "sheep without a shepherd," Jesus acted, even though His rest had been interrupted and His heart was breaking.

Sometimes we can feel overwhelmed and tired also. The needs of our community and world are unending. During the past month Social Ministry has asked the always generous members of Zion to continue to contribute food stuffs to and work at the Oxford Ecumenical Food Pantry, to gather book bags and school supplies for the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group and to purchase towels and personal care items to mail to struggling refugees. We can be tempted to turn a blind eye towards those crying out to us until we remember the story in Mark. How can we not take action?

The meditation ends reminding us that "The Word of grace has come to us," and we are exhorted to just do one helpful thing today to ease suffering in our world.

A special thank you to Zion's members who staffed the Oxford Ecumenical Food Pantry during the month of July. Many experienced and new volunteers greeted those in need with gracious smiles as they assisted the clients to fill their grocery carts and pack bags into their vehicles

Upcoming endeavors of Social Ministry include a packing party to send off the personal care kits, the collection of jams and jellies throughout the remainder of August and throughout September and the first gatherings to work on our fleece blankets of love. For folks who like to plan ahead, we will be collecting all types of beans in October for the food shelf and the annual Crop Walk date for a Sunday in late October will be announced.

Blessings to all, Paula Kilian Clark.

NEW ENGLAND SYNOD WORLD HUNGER EVENT:

"Where We're at with ELCA World Hunger:
Newest Best and Brightest"

LOCATIONS:

Emanuel Lutheran Church, 60 Church St.,
Manchester, CT **Saturday, Sept. 22, 9:30 AM - 2:30
PM**; Lunch served

Trinity Lutheran Church, 170 Old Westford Rd.,
Chelmsford, MA **Sunday, Sept. 23, 2 - 6:30 PM**; Sup-
per served

WORKSHOPS:

- "Who's At Your Table?"- Mikka McCracken: Who sits next to you and how can you share skills and events that work well to serve others?
- "Alternative Giving Fairs, ELCA Good Gifts & Other Best Practices:"-- Doreen Rinas: Honor others through specific projects of ELCA World Hunger! Learn about Alternative Giving Fairs! Share your World Hunger church successes!
- "Fighting Malaria"- Nleveh Jackson, Pastor David Rinas: Learn about malaria, its symptoms and effects, the ELCA Malaria Campaign and how you and your congregation can participate!
- "Hunger-How To Tell Your Story" - Maude Carpenter & Chris Rothe: Learn about presentations that draw interest and gain support for your cause. Things anyone can do, even YOU!

REGISTRATION:

Register by **Monday, Sept. 17**, for either event at doreenrinas@yahoo.com or 978 433 2645. Make checks (\$10/person) payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and send to Doreen at Trinity, Chelmsford.

LSS PROGRAM IN WORCESTER SEEKS PROFESSIONALS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Forsberg Transitional Living and North Ashland Street programs in Worcester, Mass., are seeking volunteers to form a Human Rights committee

Under the regulations of the Mass. Department of Developmental Services, LSS is required to create such a committee to safeguard the rights of the people we serve: the Forsberg program supports 60 adults with developmental disabilities who live independently. The North Ashland program serves five adult men who require 24 hour support

This committee, which will meet monthly except for July and August, will be composed of the following credentialed volunteers: an attorney or paralegal, a nurse (RN) or a physician (MD), a master's level clinician or psychiatrist, a community member and a family member

Their responsibilities include reviewing all incident reports, behavior plans and training materials. Meetings may be attended via conference call as long as an attendance sheet is signed.

If you or someone you know has the qualifications and the desire to support LSS clients with your professional expertise and personal compassion, please contact Joanne Brackett, director for developmental services in Massachusetts, at jbrackett@lssne.org or 339.225.1732.



JUNE 12 AND JULY 10, 2012 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Submitted by Marleen R. Bacon
The June 12, 2012 Zion Council meet-

ing was opened at 7 PM by President Robert Laurens. Pastor Nancy gave the opening devotions.

The Council welcomed Bud Fischvogt as the newest Council member. Mr. Fischvogt will take over the duties of the Property Committee. His committee's first job will be working on cleaning the Outdoor Chapel area and getting it ready for the July 1, 2012 service. His committee is always looking for volunteers to help inside and outside the church area.

The Committee Chairpersons gave their monthly reports. Shirley Rossmeisl reported that the Flea Market collected \$1,332 with money from the food booth going to the Church Youth and the remainder going to the ELCA Tornado Relief Fund.

Pastor Nancy reported on the election of Pastor James Hazelwood as the new Bishop. She also gave a report of her past month's pastoral duties.

Zion will be participating in the Town of Oxford's 300th Anniversary opening celebration on July 8, 2012. Zion will have a "dessert" table.

The July 10, 2012 Council meeting was called to order by President Laurens and opened with devotions from Pastor Nancy.

All committee chair persons present gave their monthly reports. The Financial report was given to date. Susan Butchman reported that the "dessert" table at the Oxford' 300th Celebration had made a profit of \$75. This was also an important opportunity for an evangelism outreach for Zion.

Zion has received a Food Service Permit for the operation of the kitchen from the Oxford Board of Health. An inspection of the kitchen will be performed shortly. This permit will cover coffee hour, the flea market and any other food related activities.

The Council will not meet again until September.

EVANGELISM

Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism Chair

In the coming months we will be looking for opportunities to put what we learned at the "What Makes God's House A Home" into practice. We learned that LOVE is what makes God's house a home. Love has many expressions. One practical way to express love as an individual or as a congregation is through hospitality. When the Evangelism Committee met with Lisa Betrovski (chair of the Hospitality Committee) it was clear that there was definitely an overlap in our ministries. The Hospitality Committee has done a great job providing us with opportunities to get together, to know one another better, to invite others and to grow. Hospitality is important to every ministry we offer.

To better understand hospitality as way of life for our congregation, Pastor Nancy has offered to begin the Evangelism Committee meetings with a time of devotion exploring a Biblical understanding of hospitality. This will be done as a series held over a period of time. Interested? Would you like to become a member of the Evangelism Committee? If interested, but not ready to become a member would you like to attend this time of devotion and study? Is it something you'd be interested in but now is not the best time? Think about it, pray about it, speak to Pastor Nancy or a member of the committee. Our next scheduled meeting is October 2nd at 7:00 PM.

Another opportunity for evangelism and hospitality has been given to us by The Oxford Historical Commission and is another event planned to help celebrate Oxford's 300th anniversary. They have asked the Houses of Worship in Oxford to hold an Open House. We have chosen to take part and will be doing so on Reformation Sunday, October 28th, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Details will be announced in the near future.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

In case of emergency hospitalization or death – the best, and quickest, way to reach Pastor Nancy is by calling 508-499-8787 By calling this number, you can reach Pastor Nancy immediately.

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP ELECT HAZELWOOD SEPTEMBER 29TH

You are invited to the installation of the Rev. James E. Hazelwood as Bishop of the New England Synod to be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at 2 p.m. at [Trinity Lutheran Church](#), Worcester. ELCA Bishop Mark S. Hanson will preside

Sing in Synod-wide Choir : Music will be provided in advance and one rehearsal will be held on the day of the installation at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity, Worcester. A light lunch will be provided. To sign-up, contact John Weit (jweit@trinityworc.org, 508.753.2989) by Sept. 10.

Assist in Worship We are looking for lay persons to serve as ushers and greeters, acolytes and communion assistants. Contact Beth Axelson at baxelson@verizon.net or Jon Niketh at pastor@fclynn.org by Sept. 10.

Ride in the Motorcycle Procession Bikers are invited to join our new bishop and the Lutheran Lizards as they ride from the parking lot of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Charlestown, R.I. (departure at 10 a.m.) and make their way north to Trinity If you are interested in joining this procession, contact Bishop-elect Hazelwood at jhazelwood@nesynod.org.



FUNNY THING HAPPENED . . .

Four years ago, we began Stephen Ministry. Our goal was to build a ministry that would train men and women to care for those who are hurting. We achieved that—but a funny thing happened along the way.

Three of us went to the Stephen Leader training conference that immersed us in the Stephen Ministry process. We came home and began planning. We prayed, talked, learned, planned, dreamed, laughed, cried, celebrated, and prayed some more—keeping before us the goal of helping hurting people to find healing and wholeness through the love of Christ.

Our next step was to recruit our first class of Stephen Ministers. I will never forget interviewing these men and women. They shared their love for God and their longing to be used in the work of the kingdom. Many described how Jesus helped them through their own past struggles, and how they now wanted to be there to help others.

Then we began the 50 hours of Stephen Minister training. One of the surprise blessings was how we ourselves were being changed. Trainees shared how their relationships at home were becoming healthier. I could see everyone growing in Christian maturity. Week after week, we spent time together learning, sharing, caring, and praying for each other in the Word.

So here's the funny thing that happened: We thought we were making a program, but it turns out we were making disciples. Do you have to be a Stephen Minister to become a disciple? No. But elements of Stephen Ministry illustrate the path of discipleship.

First, being a disciple is something to which God calls you—something that happens in community, not alone. Jesus nurtured his disciples in community. They traveled with him and with each other; they learned and grew together. Stephen Ministers learn and grow together in class and supervision. Discipleship never happens alone.

Second (but just as important), growth in the inner spiritual life is balanced by a concern for the world outside ourselves and our church. Stephen Ministers study and learn, but their efforts aim toward helping others. While Jesus and his disciples were together and he was teaching them, they were also interacting with the folks around them. Jesus was concerned for and had compassion for all those he met—and he urged his disciples to do the same.

*Third, consistency matters. Stephen Ministry grows disciples because of the consistency involved. Stephen Ministers meet weekly for initial training and then twice a month for continuing education and supervision. These ongoing, consistent meetings keep Stephen Ministers centered in the Word, grounded in a community of believers, and focused on our mission: to share the love of Christ with those who are hurting.***

Do you want to be a disciple? Stay close to the Word, be accountable to a small group, and look for a way to serve. Stephen Ministry enables you to do all that—and more. If you are being called to be a Stephen Minister please speak to one of the Stephen Leaders Pat Bean, Susan Pierce, Jackie Bonneau or Pam Olson as we are looking to put together a new class soon.

***(This story by Rev. Karen Pollan originally appeared in the March 2012 issue of Communiqué, the newsletter of Salem First Presbyterian Church in Salem, Oregon. Reprinted by Stephen Ministries St. Louis with permission.)



HELP US GROW OUR MINISTRY!

Needs exist around us to serve, both within and beyond our doors. However, more Stephen Ministers are needed on our team to reach out in this caring support.

Please give consideration to the time and gifts

God has given you.

A caring heart? A willingness to listen? A faith within?

A new **training class** is targeted to begin **this fall**. Contact me, Pat Bean (508) 943-2762, for an application or more information. I'd be happy to talk with you!

ZION'S CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY

The purpose is to offer and maintain a relevant and current selection of Christian educational books and resources that address spiritual and emotional needs in the support of our wellness, wholeness and growth in God's grace. The library is available to all members and friends of Zion. We have many books on the shelf that are relevant to all areas of our Christian lives. Just a few are: Helping A Neighbor in Crisis, 101 Ways to reach Your Community, Nuts and Bolts for Small Group Leaders, Fresh Bread and Other Gifts of Spiritual Nourishment. Approximately 90 titles in all and more to be catalogued and shelved. The library is located at the far end of the Koinonia room. More news to follow in future newsletters. Everybody is welcome!

Carol Weinhardt
Christian Care Library Coordinator

NOTE FROM PAT BEAN: Carol Weinhardt has graciously accepted the responsibilities of managing the Christian Care Library. Thank you Carol!



SAVE THE DATE!

**NEW ENGLAND WOMEN OF
the ELCA's 2012 biennial
convention** will be held
**Oct. 26-27, 2012, at Calumet Lutheran Camp
and Conference Center, Freedom, N.H.** Contact
Elizabeth Burgess or Denise Puisto, co-chairs to
register.



COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Would you like to be part of a caring ministry to members who cannot be physically present at church services? Bread and wine from our regular worship can be sent home with prepared lay members to share as an extension of our weekly Holy Communion meal. A brief training session will be held for interested persons. Please speak to Pastor Nancy, or sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested.

PASTORAL ACTS

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Affirmation of Baptism July 7th

Ashley Pow, Jocelyn Pow, Jonathan Morales-Rosa

Baptism July 29th

Analiz Victoria Morales Rosa (baptized by her grandmother Rev. Rafaela Morales-Rosa)

MAY GOD COMFORT ALL WHO MOURN

Funerals

Betty Keegan June 1
Margarethe Johnson June 12
Carl Langer July 25
Arlene Sugalski July 28
Victoria Schremser August 9



Claudia Berti, Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski, Karen Cole, Esther Elliott, Liesl Voosen Fields, Pam Siegmund Foy, Caroline Lorkiewicz, Peter Pierce, Conrad Redlitz, James Rothenburg, Corinne Rousseau and Mark Sweet, the family and friends mourning the death of David Marcoux..

To let the pastor know about a prayer concern or to add a name to the printed prayer list, you can tell Pastor Nancy in person or by email, call or email Karen in the office or use the cards in the pews.

NEWS FROM LSS

On July 1, 2012, an affiliate of Sheehan Health Group acquired Lutheran Healthcare Center of Worcester from the current owner, Lutheran Home of Worcester, Inc.

The new owners are committed to upholding the Center's mission and 90 year tradition of serving and caring for older adults and their families with the highest degree of professional expertise and personal care. As witness to that commitment, the "Lutheran" in the name will remain. We are proud to share with you that the new name is Lutheran Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center and that Paul and Carol Kennedy's names will continue to be honored on the signs. **The Rev. Ken Bean continues as Chaplain at LHC.**

For more information, please see the memo posted in the Fellowship Hall from David Forsberg.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL RESULTS
JULY 31,2012**

We took in \$11,273.03 thousand in Jul and we spent \$12,880.26 thousand in Jul Expenses exceeded income by \$1,607.23 dollars-- resulting in a deficit for July.

For the year, we took in \$77,194 thousand and spent \$85,632 thousand through the month of July. For the year, Expenses exceeded income by \$8,438 dollars.

For the 7 months of 2012, Revenue is \$10,787 under budget and Expenses are \$2,349 under budget.

The following is a comparison of 2012 actual to 2012 budget:

	Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 7/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating Revenue	\$ 11,273.03	\$ 77,194.31	\$ 87,981.25	\$ (10,786.94)
Operating Expenses	\$ 12,880.26	\$ 85,632.04	\$ 87,981.25	\$ (2,349.21)
Income Net of Expenses	<u>\$ (1,607.23)</u>	<u>\$ (8,437.73)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (8,437.73)</u>

Expenses	Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 7/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Benevolence	\$ 909.00	\$ 5,539.70	\$ 6,008.33	\$ (468.63)
Pastors Ministry	\$ 6,319.74	\$ 40,940.06	\$ 42,261.92	\$ (1,321.86)
Stephen Ministry	\$ 10.70	\$ 446.88	\$ 554.17	\$ (107.29)
Youth Ministry	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,057.55	\$ 583.33	\$ 474.22
Worship & Music	\$ 2,485.51	\$ 16,059.13	\$ 15,825.25	\$ 233.88
Administration	\$ 1,323.39	\$ 8,294.62	\$ 8,386.58	\$ (91.96)
Property Management	\$ 322.22	\$ 3,973.11	\$ 4,144.58	\$ (171.47)
Insurance & Utilities	\$ 181.53	\$ 6,239.87	\$ 7,854.58	\$ (1,614.71)
Education & Outreach	\$ 27.42	\$ 938.54	\$ 1,633.33	\$ (694.79)
Evangelism	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 175.00	\$ (25.00)
Hospitality	\$ 16.57	\$ 201.66	\$ 175.00	\$ 26.66
Stewardship	\$ 7.40	\$ 549.14	\$ 379.17	\$ 169.97
Non-budgeted Expenses	\$ 976.78	\$ 1,241.78	\$ -	\$ 1,241.78
	<u>\$ 12,880.26</u>	<u>\$ 85,632.04</u>	<u>\$ 87,981.25</u>	<u>\$ (2,349.21)</u>

2012 Operating Budget

\$ 150,825.00

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 07/31/12

\$7,123.29

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*



IN MEMORY OF FRANK ABISSI

Music Fund

Paul and Jean Peterson

IN MEMORY OF MARGARETHE JOHNSON

Memorial Fund

Jayne Bouthillier

Lee Dupre

Richard and Beverly Langer

Robert and Carol Langer

Conrad Redlitz

Lois L. Taylor

IN MEMORY OF "ROCKY" MILLER

Music Fund

Ed and Shirley Rossmesl

Memorial fund

Douglas and Elaine Babcock, Jr.

Esther Elliott

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Keegan

Mary H. Lonergan

Roland Malboeuf

Theresa Miller

Paul and Jean Peterson

Mr. and Mrs. William Raszka

Mark, Kathleen, and Evelyn Swierzben

Dick and Gerry Seigmund

Jim and Julie Williams

IN MEMORY OF BETTY KEEGAN

Ms Josephine Aniello

Ken and Pat Bean

Ms. Kathleen Berg

Ms Miriam Boyajian

Ms. Andree Cassavant

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Colleran

Mrs. Harriet Crawford

Bernie and Carol Cyr

Bruce Dillaire

Antoinette Dobosz

Lee Dupre

Ms. Charlotte Fogerty

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gatzke

Ms. Carolyn Gunther

Karen M. Kempeskie-Aquino

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mrozck

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Neylon

Gary M. Penfield Living Trust

Paul and Jean Peterson

Russell S. Pratt

Shirley Reichenberg

Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Recktenwald

Dick and Gerry Seigmund

Peggy J. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. John Starick

Barbara Steege

Milton Weinstein

"Betty's Book Club"

Belforte and Dupont Law Office

Cam's Oil Service, Inc.

Squeaky Clean

Webster Five Cent Savings Bank-Richard

T. Leahy

**IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BOB & CAROL LANGER**

Given by:

Mr & Mrs Frank Baril

and

Ken & Pat Bean to the Stephen Ministry - Christian Care
Library to purchase books to build healthy marriages



HAPPY SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAY

Thomas Mallett 1

Esther Elliott 05

Jeffrey Clark 09

Allie Howland 13

Chris Costello 13

John Makowski 13

Patrick Reed 16

Erika Larson 20

Kyle Champoux 20

Justin Aniello 21

Harold Basins 21

Steve Schur 23

Lucas Levasseur 23

Haylee Olson 24

Tere Laurens 25

Richard Clark 25

Marleen Bacon 29



ZION IS ON FACEBOOK



<https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurch>

"Like" the page to keep updated about what is going on.



If you have moved or will be moving in the future, please let us know so that we can change your address, telephone numbers and emails if necessary. We want to stay current with our mailing information.

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