

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

OFFICE HOURS

T-F (Karen)

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.



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

November 1: 7:00 PM

Worship Committee

November 6: 5:00 PM

LIPY-CM Zion Worcester

November 7: 6:00 PM

Stephen Ministry

November 8: 7:00 PM

Church Council

November 20: Semi-Annual
Congregational Mtg.

1 worship service @ **10:00 AM**

Sunday School **9:15 AM**

November 21: 7:00 PM

Oxford Ecumenical

Thanksgiving Service

Zion Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2011



HOLY LISTENING

I write this newsletter article on the first evening of the annual bishop's convocation – a time of learning and fellowship for all the pastors and other rostered leaders in the synod. In her address to us after dinner, Bishop Payne spoke to us of Listening. Our synod has been engaged in a five-year process of learning to listen more deeply – to God, to each other, to the world. As Bishop Payne reminded us, listening, really listening, is not easy. It is hard work; because we do not seek a normal, day-to-day kind of listening, but a Holy Listening. A Holy Listening is one in which we listen deeply for what God has to say to us, through scripture, in prayer, and through others. We need to cultivate the ability to engage in this kind of listening by making space for it in our lives. Daily prayer, Scripture reading, and regular worship help form senses to hear what God is saying to us.

We do not engage in this Holy Listening just as individuals by ourselves, but as a whole community of believers. As part of your process to call me as a new pastor, you participated in Holy Listening as you sought to understand what God is calling Zion Lutheran to do together as a people of God in Oxford. This kind of Holy Listening is never over, as a congregation we need to continue to be Holy Listeners together, listening for the Word among us – as God challenges, comforts and guides us through the days ahead.

Listen! Listen God is calling.

Through the Word inviting.

Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

(From Hymn #513, Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

In Christ,

Pastor Nancy



NOVEMBER 27TH

First Sunday in Advent

A time of Waiting.

A time of Hope.



COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011 7:00 PM

ST. ROCH'S CHURCH, MAIN STREET, OXFORD

Members of each congregation will bring a seasonally appropriate song as a gift to the gathered community. Each group will gather at the front of the church and sing their song, inviting the whole congregation to join in the singing. Our offering will go to the Oxford Food Shelf. Be generous. Each Congregation should bring 3 dozen goodies for refreshments.



Food Shelf

CROP WALK 2011

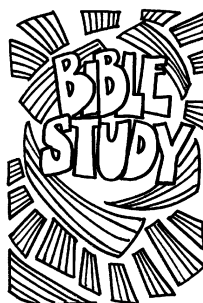
Another successful Crop Walk took place on October 23. Zion's walkers, Pam, Dave and Haley Olsen and Richard Clark walked representing Zion. A total of \$333 was raised between our free will donations and pledges. Thank you for your generous hearts and willing feet!

The Oxford Food Shelf is currently serving 145 families. If you know a family or individual residing in Oxford or someone who is a member of an Oxford church that is having difficulty feeding themselves or their children, please tell them to call the Oxford Food Shelf. This month we are trying to collect 120 cans of soup to keep the pantry shelves stocked. In November, we will be seeking canned pasta. Additionally, we are gathering boxes of mints to send along for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Thin mints, peppermint patties or Andes type boxes will work. As we did at Easter, we will place seasonal stickers with information regarding Zion's worship services on the outside of the packages. It is one more way to reach out to others and let them know that, indeed, **all are welcome!**

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 20th** to attend the Semi-Annual Congregational meeting. **We will have one service at 10:00 AM with Sunday School beginning at 9:15 AM.** The meeting will begin immediately following the worship service. We hope to see a good turn out to help conduct the business of the church.



SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM

Beginning in November we will be doing a study of Moses. Just hearing his name brings to mind many stories about him. Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush, his showdown with Pharaoh and the 10 plagues that finally convinced Pharaoh to let God's people go, the parting of the Red Sea, the manna from heaven and his receiving the 10 commandments.

What's most important to "us" about Moses story is God's activity in his life. His story really tells us how much God cares for and hears the cries of those in need. God chose Moses and equipped him to lead His people out of slavery and prepare them for entrance into the promised land. God is also active in our lives. He continues to care for and listen to those in need and God continues to call, equip and send out His servants to carry out His will that we may also be freed from all that enslaves us and be prepared to enter His promised land.



Time Change

FALL BACK NOVEMBER 6TH

Remember before you go to bed on Saturday evening to turn your clocks back so that on Sunday, November 6th you will be at church on time.



CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Submitted by Marleen Bacon,
Council Secretary

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

Pastor Clifford Gerber opened this meeting with a word of prayer. This will be Pastor Cliff's last Council meeting and he was thanked for his work as our Transitional Pastor. He will be missed and promises to come back to visit.

Committee members gave their monthly reports.

Carol Weinhardt spoke to the Council about the plans for the Town of Oxford's 300th Anniversary Celebration commencing in July of 2012 and continuing into July of 2013. Further plans will be made to incorporate Zion into the celebration.

Plans continue to welcome Pastor Nancy. Her first Sunday to preach at Zion will be on October 23rd. We all look forward to having Pastor Nancy with us.

The Congregational meeting will take place after the 10:00 AM service on November 20, 2011.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on November 8, 2011 at 7 PM.



CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY

Book Review

"A TIME TO MOURN, A TIME TO DANCE"

by Margaret Metzgar

If you are going through a change in life that includes any kind of loss, a job, a child or a loved one. All losses need time to grieve and a way to move forward. A nice easy read for those few quiet moments in your day.



STEPHEN MINISTRY MOVES
FORWARD

We are excited to begin another training class for Stephen Ministers on November 6th. The classes will run through the fall and winter months and will be held primarily on Sunday afternoons from 12:30-3pm. That is the most convenient time for the participants involved. Members and friends are encouraged to follow the topic progression and explanations that will be posted on the Stephen Ministry bulletin board through out the course.

We are so thankful for the gifts God has given these individuals that will be used, through the Stephen Ministry program to carry out His command to "care for one another".

If you ever need the support of a Stephen Minister or know someone who does, please reach out in confidence to Susan Pierce at 508-987-1390.

Pam Olson



Dear Fellow Stewards,

Thank you for a successful Stewardship Drive this year! If you have not returned your Commitment card, please do so as soon as you are able.

Remember, if you would like to receive 2012 envelopes, you need to let me know. We will only be preparing envelopes for those members who asked for them.

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.

Live generously and use God's gifts with gratitude,

san Pierce, your Stewardship Chairperson

LIPY-CM YOUTH EVENT

ZION—WORCESTER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

5:00 PM

PIZZA AND MOVIE



ZION SOLAR ELECTRIC PROPOSAL



Our Property Chair, Jim Champoux, has been investigating a solar electric system for Zion. Jim recently had a solar electric system installed at his home through SolarCity using their \$0 Down Lease Option. Jim had gotten the Council's approval to get a proposal from SolarCity for Zion during the summer. Since then, Jim has been working to inform the Council about the Proposal from SolarCity as well as investigate funding options for the project. At the Council meeting on Oct 11th, Jim got the approval of the Council to make a presentation to the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting on November 20th.

In the coming weeks, Jim will be providing information about SolarCity, their proposal, and also New Generation Energy which is an organization that helps with fundraising endeavors for these types of projects. The proposal calls for an 8.28 kW system to be installed on the roof of Zion (the large, sloped roof facing the parking lot). This system would produce 9,300 kWh annually and offset 93% of our annual electricity. SolarCity takes care of all the necessary planning, permits and installation – and all of those costs are reflected upfront in the Proposal.

These systems work by being tied into the Electricity Grid and the solar electricity that is produced is either used at the church or goes back to the grid to be used elsewhere. Any solar energy used at the church would therefore not need to be purchased from National Grid. Any extra solar electricity generated would result in a credit on our monthly bill. And if we happen to need electricity when solar was not available, then we continue to take it from the grid and get charged for it. The result is called Net Metering. We produce / use the solar generated electricity at a lower cost than available from National Grid, make a positive impact on the community and environment around us, and also provide a positive influence to other people and organizations in the community to take the same initiative.

Unlike a residential system, Zion would be using the Pre-Paid Lease plan. This lease plan offers many advantages over purchasing a similar system – the cost is much less, SolarCity monitors and warranties the system and will make any repairs necessary for the full 20 years of the lease. At the end of the 20 year lease term, the lease can be extended, the system upgraded, or the system removed. The Pre-Paid lease would mean that the full cost of the lease (20 years) would be paid upfront and there would be no monthly payments. Essentially, we would eliminate 93% of our annual electricity cost for 20 years.

So, what does a system like this cost and how is Zion going to pay for it? The cost of the system for Zion based on the Proposal Jim received over the summer is \$14,088. The projected savings from installing and implementing the system is \$40,504! This is based on the difference in the cost of leasing the system vs the cost of buying electricity and the almost certain rising costs associated with electricity from the Grid over those 20 years.

But how are we going to pay for it? Jim has investigated a few options and has found an organization called New Generation Energy. New Generation Energy is an organization that helps other organizations with fund raising for environmentally friendly projects like the SolarCity proposal. They would work with us to help promote our project and raise the funds to pay for it. Donations would be made not just by members of Zion but others in the community and surrounding area. They even have special opportunities for matching donations. They would work with us to raise the funds and once we achieve our goal the funds would be given to us to pay for the project.

So the opportunity exists to work with New Generation Energy and raise the entire amount needed to install and implement the SolarCity proposal. That would result in not only an a tremendous positive environmental impact, but also in a large potential cost savings for Zion where funds we used to spend for electricity could be available for other projects. And by being a forerunner in our area, we have the added potential to influence other organizations and home owners to take the same steps.

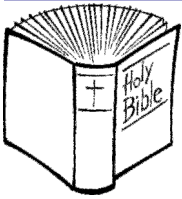
We realize this is a major decision, with lots of questions. In the coming weeks, Jim will be providing information about SolarCity, New Generation Energy and some feedback from other organizations that have used both of these and have offered their feedback and recommendations. You can also look up both of these on the web:

SolarCity = www.solarcity.com

New Genration Energy = www.newgenerationenergy.org

Feel free to contact Jim Champoux with any questions/comments

Email: soxfan1966@charter.net Phone: 508-330-2511 (cell) Or speak to him at church.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Are you smarter than a 5th grader? How about 3rd, or 1st, or Kindergartener? You can test your knowledge! Our Sunday School year is in full swing. Each class has been offered a challenge this year. If the classes successfully rise to the challenge their reward will be great ~ an ice cream "Sunday" party during class (yes 9:30 AM) at the end of the school year.

Pre K and K will be learning the Lord's Prayer

1st & 2nd grade will be learning the 10 Commandments

3rd & 4th grade will be learning the books of the New Testament

5th & 6th grade will be learning the Apostles Creed.

Here's some interesting statistics I found regarding the 10 Commandments – as well as a fun little computer game/quiz to help you practice. Try it – can you beat your kids?

14% of Americans can accurately name all Ten Commandments, yet 25% could name all seven ingredients of a well known hamburger.

"Thou shalt not kill," was known to fewer than six in ten Americans.

Less than half (45%) can recall the Commandment to "Honor thy father and mother."

Two of the least recalled names from a very well known family TV show (43%), were more familiar to Americans than the least recalled Commandments, "Remember the Sabbath" (34%) and "Do not make any false idols" (29%).

Even those who attend a place of worship at least once a week have trouble naming all Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt not kill" (70%) and "Thou shalt not steal" (69%).

<http://www.the-ten-commandments.org/the-ten-commandments-quiz.html>

CELEBRATING OXFORD'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY

Oxford will celebrate its 300th Anniversary of formal incorporation as a town in July 2013. Beginning in July 2012 the town plans to commemorate its long history and celebrate community life with a variety of events.. The Oxford Historical Commission has extended an invitation to the leadership of each church congregation to participate in this celebration . Everyone is invited however it is requested that each church designate one or two members as representatives. There have been two meetings to date one on May 18th and another on September 26th both to "brainstorm" and explore ways in which members of Houses of Worship in Oxford might come together to celebrate their presence. Some churches have been a part of Oxford's history longer that others and yet each congregation, in its own way, has had a strong influence on the spiritual and social life of this town. Each structure has its own history; each denomination has its own faith tradition.

Some of the suggested activities have been: a day of touring each of our Houses of Worship, an Ecumenical Choir concert, Organ concerts, bell/chime concert. We have also been ask to give the Historical Commission a written history of our church (which has been done). There is a plan to develop a booklet summarizing the histories of each church to commemorate this Anniversary.

It is also possible the we could participate in the parades by walking behind a banner or do a float or take a booth on Main St as part of the July 8, 2012 and July, 2013.

There will be a slide presentation of the 250th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, November 10th at 6:30pm in the Oxford Senior Center. Roger Bacon will show slides taken by William Taft of those parades and activities. This presentation is sponsored by the Historical Commission and the Huguenot Memorial Society of Oxford, Inc.

The next meeting of this committee is November 28th at 7pm at the Oxford Senior Center.
Carol Weinhardt - Zion's representative on the Oxford Historical Commission's Anniversary Committee.

Treasurer's Report



**FINANCIAL RESULTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011**

We took in \$9,969 thousand in September and we spent \$8,275 thousand in September.

Income exceeded expenses by \$1,694 dollars-- resulting in a profit for September

For the year, we took in \$92,506 thousand and spent \$81,280 thousand through the month of September. For the year, income exceeded expenses by \$11,226 thousand.

For the 9 months of 2011, income is \$28,352 under budget and expenses are \$39,577.35 under budget.

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

	September 2011	Jan-Sep 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 9/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Operating Revenue	\$ 9,968.84	\$ 92,505.54	\$ 120,857.25	\$ (28,351.71)	
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,274.53	\$ 81,279.90	\$ 120,857.25	\$ (39,577.35)	**
Income Net of Expenses	\$ 1,694.31	\$ 11,225.64	\$ -	\$ 11,225.64	

Expenses	September 2011	Jan-Sep 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 9/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Salaries	\$ 5,060.10	\$ 52,096.76	\$ 88,285.50	\$ (36,188.74)	
General Administration	\$ 1,639.60	\$ 10,539.36	\$ 10,071.75	\$ 467.61	
Property	\$ 1,462.37	\$ 12,807.52	\$ 16,368.75	\$ (3,561.23)	
Education	\$ -	\$ 936.70	\$ 2,137.50	\$ (1,200.80)	
Worship	\$ 106.66	\$ 1,709.17	\$ 1,987.50	\$ (278.33)	
Stewardship	\$ 5.80	\$ 62.65	\$ 506.25	\$ (443.60)	
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ 249.05	\$ 225.00	\$ 24.05	
Social Ministry	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00	
Ecumenical Council	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.00	\$ (50.00)	
Stephen Ministry	\$ -	\$ 238.10	\$ 1,050.00	\$ (811.90)	
Reimbursed expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,415.59		\$ 2,415.59	
	\$ -				
	\$ 8,274.53	\$ 81,279.90	\$ 120,857.25	\$ (39,577.35)	**

2011 Operating Budget \$ 161,143.00

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeis, Treasurer*



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Bernard Cyr 01
- Brian Keegan 01
- Sandy Maisano 04
- Jennifer Levasseur 08
- Robert Cozzens 08
- Jean Peterson 11
- Barbara Munsch 11
- Doris Manzi 11
- Susan Pierce 11
- Barbara Haggerty 15
- Richard Plaza Jr.16
- Charlie Karp 17
- Edward Rossmeisl 17
- Valerie Daoust 19
- Debbie Schur 21
- Caitlin Seaman 21
- Julie Williams 22
- Mic Woods 25**
- Edward Keegan III 25
- Amy Canty 25
- Joey Watkins 26
- Maureen Champoux 27**



HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday, October 23rd we welcomed Florissa Jane Lundquist into Christ's church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Florissa was presented for baptism by her parents Jeff and Jennifer Lunquist and her baptismal sponsors Kelley and Tyrone Lochmandy. We pray God's blessings on Florissa and her family.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

December 11th.

You will once again have an opportunity to order a Poinsettia to adorn the chancel at Christmas. Look for information on cost and the order form in the weeks ahead. **The deadline to order will be Sunday,**



FALLANNUAL FALL CLEANUP

The Property Committee is planning a cleanup day on **Saturday November 19th @ 10am** with a **rain date** of **Saturday Nov 26th**. Please come with your rakes, leaf blowers and lend us a hand for a few hours.



Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski, Brian Cole, **Esther Elliott**, Liesl Voosen Fields, **Pamela Foy**, David Jalbert, **Margarethe Johnson**, **Ron Johnson**, Jonathan MacDonald, **Doris Manzi**, Dennis Mercer, Jennifer Moore, Lillian Pavovich, **Peter Pierce**, Len Pauplis, Mark Sweet.



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DATE

The deadline for submissions for the December newsletter is **Tuesday, November 15th.**



MEMORIAL GARDEN COBBLESTONES

In memory of Sofia Martinez

Bob and Tere Laurens

In memory of Dr. Walter R. Schur

Peter and Lisa Betrovski

MUSIC FUND

In memory of Wilma Miller

Lee Duprey

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Walker

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Walter Schur

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Betterly

In Memory of Wilma Miller

Conrad Redlitz

Mr. and Mrs. Robert {Rocky} Miller

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Meagher

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God's blessings never cease.