

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

**CONTACT US!
SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

T-F (Karen)
9:00 AM-NOON

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

JUNE/SUMMER 2011



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN

As St. Paul began his letter to the Philippians he told of the joy he felt because he and they were able to share the gospel, the good news. In another translation he spoke of their "partnership" in the gospel.

As I leave my time of service at Zion, I would like to borrow Paul's words, and to say, I too am thankful for the partnership we have shared, a partnership of gospel-telling, and gospel-hearing. My hope is that before very long you will have a permanent pastor in residence who will also share this partnership in the gospel.

Until a new pastor is called, my colleague, Pastor Clifford Gerber, will continue as the transitional pastor at Zion. Pastor Gerber served for several decades at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Shrewsbury. I value my friendship with him and feel confident that you will be blessed by his ministry among you.

Again, to quote St. Paul, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy...because of your sharing in the gospel..."

Pastor John



SUMMER WORSHIP

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Outdoor chapel
Worship Service

10:30 AM Service in the
Sanctuary

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Sanctuary



WELCOME

REV. CLIFFORD GERBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14: 7:00 PM Church
Council Meeting

June 19: 9:00 AM Worship in
Outdoor Chapel begins for
the 2011 summer season
weather permitting

June 20: 6:00 PM Stephen
Ministry Meeting



SUMMER WORSHIP

On **Sunday, June 19th** Zion will move to the Summer Worship Schedule. On that day we will begin using the **Outdoor Chapel (weather permitting) for the 9:00 AM service.** For those who prefer to worship indoors the **10:30 AM service will be held in the sanctuary.** Our **Tuesday evening service at 6:00 PM is also held in the sanctuary.**



PASTOR GERBER!!

On **Sunday, June 12th** The Rev. Clifford Gerber will begin serving as our Transitional Pastor while we continue to move through the Call process. Pastor Gerber wants people to inform him of hospitalizations and to feel free to contact him at home in case of emergency or on his cell if he is not home. **His home number is 508-753-6996 and the cell number is 508-688-4763.**



YOU ARE INVITED!

For some people that is music to their ears. A **party!** A **celebration!** A **gathering!**

This Fall will bring us back from summer vacations. A time of the year when we start up Sunday School, Bible Study, and many other additional activities within and outside of our walls. Last year Hospitality supported celebrations like First Communion, New Member Sundays, Coffee Hour, Saying hello to Pastor's coming and saying Thank you to Pastor's leaving and a Movie and Dinner night for the families and friends of our church. This Fall I am praying for a large team to join together to bring **Fun, Fellowship, Ideas** and **Exciting activities** to our church. I heard that Oxford might be bringing back Founders Day. I know Zion has an important Anniversary that needs planning. I am in the process of creating a DVD to share with you and new people walking in the door for the first time, wondering if Zion is a place they can call home. I am **INVITING YOU** to join the Hospitality Team!

With more people we can bring more **excitement**, more **celebrations** to our church. If you have interest I would love to talk face to face with you.

Summer is approaching and I will be heading to the Cape just after Father's Day. I would love to have a strong team built **before** I leave. Then we can be waiting for the Fall to come with **ideas**, **energy** and **team spirit**. If you would like to be part of planning, helping, baking or just to bring a **great attitude** to the team I can be reached on line at enjoythejourney4@aol.com **Charlton** phone 508-248-4547 or Cell 508-843-8323.

Life is worth celebrating!

Let's celebrate together!

Lisa Betrovski

p.s even Jesus liked a good party.



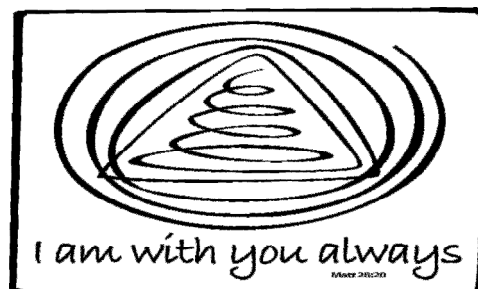
EVANGELISM AT WORK

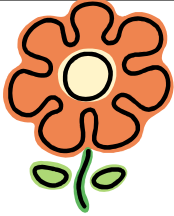
Summer will soon be here and with it vacation time. Vacations can be a great opportunity to visit other churches. How a church treats its visitors can be enlightening. Years ago we visited a church while we were vacationing in Maine. No one seemed to notice us and no one spoke to us. The sermon was about some problem the church was having without any light being shed on how Jesus could bring healing or positive change. You could feel the tension in the church and I left praying for them and feeling sad. If we lived in that area and were looking for a church we would have kept on looking.

Several years later we were vacationing in Pennsylvania and had a very different experience. We were greeted as we walked into the church, the sermon was biblical and the worship spirited. I felt a part of what was going on even though we did not know anyone. We were invited to juice on the lawn and people took an interest in us even when they found out we were there on vacation and only visiting for that day. We certainly would have come back if we were searching for a church home.

Evangelism is meant to be a way of life for a congregation. The proclamation of "good news" is proclaimed not only in the sermon but in our corporate life as the body of Christ. The love of God is best reflected in a loving community that cares for one another and reaches out to all who visit whether they are there for a day or are looking for a church they can call home.

Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism Chair





**HOW TO PLANT YOUR
GARDEN
FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY
LIVING**

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE

Lettuce us be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Let us be patient
Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDENS WITHOUT TURNIPS

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

**TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE
THYME**

Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

Located and submitted by Pam Olson

**CHRISTIAN CARE
LIBRARY**

Now that summer is upon us, consider availing yourself of the various inspiring and supportive books in our Christian Care Library located in the Koinonia Room. Each month, we will feature one specific book in the newsletter. Two authors that are an excellent read are Max Lucado and John Ortberg.

This month's recommendation is by Presbyterian pastor and bestselling author John Ortberg:

Love Beyond Reason

Moving God's Love From Your Head To Your Heart

How do you explain a love that has no explanation? What will happen if you let it touch your heart?

God loves you not because you are flawless, not because you are a perfect person, but just because you are. In this book, John Ortberg reveals the God you've longed to encounter: a Father head-over-heels in love with **you**, his child, and intensely committed to your highest joy. Ortberg takes you to the very core of God's being to discover a burning, passionate love that gives, and gives, and gives. He explores the life-changing ways this love has expressed itself through Jesus. And he shows how you, like Jesus, can love your mate, your family, your friends, and the world around you with the same practical, transforming love.

Dispelling your fears and misconceptions of God, **Love Beyond Reason** brings you face-to-face with the Love that frees and empowers you to love.

"Every once in a great while, a new author dares to write of divine love, and shapes it into forms more vivid, more human, more beautiful, and more powerful than we have ever seen. John Ortberg does this rare thing for us in Love Beyond Reason. "

--Lewis Smedes



“Christ Caring for People Through People”

In Romans 12 Paul states that we are one body in Christ with many members, each with a different function... We have different gifts according to the grace given us.

What gifts has God given to you?

What is God’s call for you at this time?

Plans are underway for a Stephen Minister Training Class to begin this fall.

Applications are now being accepted.

To obtain your application see any of the Stephen Leaders.

Pat Bean, Jackie Bonneau, Pam Olson or Susan Pierce

Each Stephen Minister brings to this ministry their own particular gifts which God has given to them. Together, as a team, we learn, grow, share and support one another. With God walking with us, and before us, we reach out to those seeking additional Christian support during challenging times in their lives.

Has God been “nudging” you?

Might it be the time for you to take that step forward into this ministry?

There is a saying that often supports us in our work. It is that “God does not call

the qualified but rather qualifies those whom He has called”. Recall Moses...Abraham...Paul and the many others who wondered “Who---Me, Lord?”

But God said—Follow me...I will give you all that you need.

**What is the experience like to serve as a Stephen Minister or
to be served by a Stephen Minister?**

Think how you would feel if ...

---You were connected with a Stephen Minister who

cared beyond the superficial?

---You were connected with a Stephen Minister

***Faithfully walked with you and reminded you of a God
who cares even more?***

Think how you would feel if...

--- ***YOU could be that someone to another as their Stephen Minister***

May God guide you as you consider serving in this vibrant and rewarding ministry!

For all the team, Pat Bean

Treasurer's Report



**FINANCIAL RESULTS
APRIL 30, 2011**

We took in \$13,507 thousand in April and we spent \$10,852 thousand in April. We spent \$2,655 thousand dollars less than we took in-- resulting in a net profit for April

For the year, we took in \$42,592 thousand and spent \$36,510 thousand through the month of April. For the year, we have a net operating profit of \$6,082 thousand.

For the 4 months of 2011, income is \$11,122 under budget and expenses are \$17,204 under budget.

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

	Apr 2011	Jan -Apr 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 4/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating Revenue	\$ 13,506.87	\$ 42,592.10	\$ 53,714.33	\$ (11,122.23)
Operating Expenses	\$ 10,852.22	\$ 36,509.86	\$ 53,714.33	\$ (17,204.47)
Income Net of Expenses	\$ 2,654.65	\$ 6,082.24	\$ -	\$ 6,082.24

Expenses	Apr 2011	Jan -Apr 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 4/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Salaries	\$ 6,639.12	\$ 23,637.65	\$ 39,238.00	\$ (15,600.35)
General Administration	\$ 799.80	\$ 3,256.82	\$ 4,476.33	\$ (1,219.51)
Property	\$ 2,262.78	\$ 7,508.49	\$ 7,275.00	\$ 233.49
Education	\$ 750.17	\$ 936.70	\$ 950.00	\$ (13.30)
Worship		\$ 656.60	\$ 883.33	\$ (226.73)
Stewardship	\$ 9.80	\$ 32.25	\$ 225.00	\$ (192.75)
Evangelism		\$ 57.95	\$ 100.00	\$ (42.05)
Social Ministry			\$ 66.67	\$ (66.67)
Ecumenical Council	\$ 61.55	\$ 86.55	\$ 33.33	\$ 53.22
Stephen Ministry		\$ 7.85	\$ 466.67	\$ (458.82)
Reimbursed expenses	\$ 329.00	\$ 329.00		\$ 329.00
	\$ 10,852.22	\$ 36,509.86	\$ 53,714.33	\$ (17,204.47)

2011 Operating Budget \$ 161,143.00

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*

HISTORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Respectfully submitted, Donald H. Weinhardt, Chairman

Since our newsletter in September we have received 2 additional gifts to the church archives. The first came from Carol Cyr, it was "The Festival Liturgy Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church 1890-1990, Oxford Massachusetts, Sunday the Seventeenth of June, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety, Three o'clock in the Afternoon"

The second gift came from Conrad H. Redlitz. Two miniature Indian tomahawks, 8 inches long, they were souvenirs, handmade of wood with painted decoration. The handles are stamped WALTHER LEAGUE, WEBSTER, MASS., and dated 1948. These souvenirs were presented as remembrance gifts to all the delegates attending the New England Convention of the Walther League, held at Camp Lutherwood on Webster Lake in 1948. Zion's Walther League was the host group and an estimated 150-175 were in attendance. This was a very large undertaking for our comparatively small group at the time. Conrad H. Redlitz and Betty Stamp were the co-chairman. (a few months later the co-chairman were married, a benefit of being a volunteer) A short history of Lutherwood was published in our March 2010 Newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who have continued their support with financial donations to the History Committee, through Memorials: Barbara Steege, Dick and Gerri Siegmund, Isabel Cannalunga, Ron and Karen Johnson, Betty Keegan, and Paul Siegmund.

During the winter Pastor John Nieman asked if we had a complete list of the Pastors that have served Zion. He has a friend, Jochen Salfeld, with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Westborough, who is doing a research project of the Lutheran Congregations of Central Worcester County. With the use of the archives and the help of some of our members, we were able to provide a rather complete list for not only Zion but Emanuel as well.

Since the inception of the History Committee in 2009, we have been reasonably successful in building an archive to represent Zion's 121 years of existence. However, there are two areas that we have not been successful. The first is early photographs from 1890 to about 1925, both of the church building and congregational functions. The second is "Meeting minutes" for both Congregational meetings and Council meetings. The minutes from the last ten years have been spotty at best. If you can help provide help in either of these areas please contact me at; 508-461-7424.



On **Sunday, May 29** at the 9:00 AM worship service we welcomed **Graciella Caroline Baublitz** into Christ's church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Graciella was presented for baptism by her parents **Dedrick and Jennifer Baublitz** and her baptismal sponsors, **Justin Desmarais and Mikaela Kitka**. We pray God's blessings on Graciella and her family.



On **Sunday, May 22nd** three of our young people were confirmed in a service of Affirmation of Baptism. **Kyle Bergeson, Haylee Olson and Ryan Baronowski** completed 2 years of Confirmation studies with Pastor Andrew Simon, Pastor John Nieman and Pastor Ed Voosen. Following the service the parents of the 7th grade Confirmation Class hosted a special Coffee Hour to celebrate this momentous occasion in their lives of faith.

STEWARDSHIP

Well, I missed the May newsletter (sorry!) I wanted to make sure I was in the June newsletter so that you would have something to think about over the summer.

Since the last newsletter, I attended two seminars on Stewardship and read a great book by Mark Allan Powell that gave me a new perspective on what "Giving to God" means and "The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life".

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! In Jesus' parables of stewardship, Jesus pointed out that we as humans often forget that God is only letting us use what still belongs to God.

It is a high privilege to be God's stewards. We own nothing, but manage everything. God trusts us in a way that we are hesitate to have with each other (including ourselves) and has confidence in us that is beyond anything that we have proven.

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

There are many spiritual disciplines that we are taught that will maintain and enhance our spiritual growth. Different churches advocate different disciplines but some of the more common ones are praying, attending church, and reading the Bible. If we think of stewardship as a spiritual discipline, we can move from a focus on requirements to discovering possibilities we did not know were available.


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.

Now that I have provided you with some things to think about over the summer, I will occasionally place some questions in the bulletin to help us think about what it might look like to be a faithful steward.

Have a wonderful and faith filled summer. In the fall I will have more to share on my readings and new discoveries about stewardship!

**God's peace be with you always,
Susan Pierce, your Stewardship Chairperson**



Food Shelf **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

Thank you to everyone who brought Easter chocolate for the Oxford Ecumenical Food Pantry. Our volunteers tell us that the children served here especially were delighted with our treats. Your generosity with boxes of cereal was heartwarming.

The item for the month of June is toilet paper. Large single rolls are preferred. For those who like to plan ahead, ***the items requested for July are jello and pudding. They are overstocked with sugar free and are in need of sugared items.***

HAPPY SUMMER BIRTHDAYS!



Jeffrey Levasseur 01
 Peter Betrovski 02
 Rev. Kenneth Bean
 Paul Peterson 06
 Marilyn Siegmund 06
 Joel Daoust 08
 Shawn Daoust 08
 Arthur G. Siegmund 10
 Rose Mayotte 10
 Janice Masi 12
 Kevin Champoux 12
 Patricia Munsch 16
 Kyle Bergeson 23
 Timothy Schur 25
 Jennifer Peterson 26
 Jessica Rivers 30



Paul Siegmund 03
 Erin Munsch 04
 Anne Bayer 06
 Scott LeBoeuf 07
 Pat Cheever 11
 Jennifer Lundquist 13
 Richard Daoust 19
 Dorothy Sundman 21
 Ann Bacon 22
 Robert Howland 23
 Arthur Siegmund 24
 Brenda Lukasek 31



Ashley Yaskis 1
 Kristen Larson 01
 Amie Siegmund 03
 Jeremy Piehl 04
 Ronald Johnson 05
 Jennifer Bonneau 06
 Barbara Steege 07
 Jay Costello 09
 Arlene Ciesluk 10
 Suzanne Butchman 10
 Priscilla Siemienkiewicz 10
 Evelyn Swierzbis 12
 Margaret Heide 12
 John Reed 13
 Glenn Elliott 14
 David Olson 16
 Sylvia Allard 17
 Mark Munsch 19
 Dave Peterson 20
 Martina Eaton 28
 Edna Rivers 28
 Elmira Surozenski 28
 Carol Cyr 29
 Keith Cheever 31

CONGRATULATIONS
Joe and Cecelia Jalbert
50th Wedding Anniversary

ADDITIONAL GIFT

We received a gift to be given to the church in honor of the birthday of Cindy Joslin by her sister Deborah Ann Wilton.



OUTDOOR CHAPEL

In Memory of

Tillie and Joe Protano

Tim and Debbie Schur

MEMORIAL GARDEN

In Memory of

Bernard and Ruth Schur

Cobblestone from their children

Doris Watters

Edna Opatka

Allan Schur

Janyce Duesenberg

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Carol Radzyk

Susan Mason

HISTORICAL FUND

In memory of Joe Cannalonga

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Siegmund

ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of
Esther Rothenberg

Barbara Steege

In Memory of Joe Cannalonga

Barbara Steege

Revised: 5/11 Please note changes

In an effort to keep our Prayer Request List current, please complete this form and either drop it into the Prayer Request Box on the credenza or mail it into the office. Thank you. Jean Peterson

PRAYER REQUEST FORM

(Please Print)

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

NAME OF PERSON FOR WHOM WE ARE PRAYING: _____

PARISH MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____

IF NO, GIVE RELATIONSHIP (i.e. - FRIEND, RELATIVE) _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

CIRCLE ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING – WHICHEVER APPLIES:

SHORT-TERM REQUEST: _____

Short-term requests will be prayed for from the altar on three (3) consecutive Sundays.

LONG-TERM REQUEST: _____

Long-term requests will be prayed for from the altar on three (3) consecutive Sundays and then transferred to the Prayer List which appears in our monthly newsletter.

If you do not wish the individual (s) to be prayed for from the altar, please check here: _____.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for: Brian Cole, **Robert Cozzens, Pamela Foy, Margarethe Johnson,** Jonathan MacDonald, **Wilma Miller,** Jennifer Moore, Lillian Pavlovich, Mark Sweet, Len Pauplis, and **Deanna Briggs.**



DR. WALTER R. SCHUR

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Walter R. Schur who entered the Church Triumphant on Monday, May 30th. Dr. Schur was a lifelong member of Zion and devoted many years of hard work to the mission and ministry of this church. In addition to his family he will be missed by members of Zion, the community of Oxford and many people in at large.

RUTH A SCHUR

The life of Ruth A. Schur was celebrated in a Service of Remembrance and Resurrection here at Zion on Tuesday, June 7th. She was called to her Eternal Rest on October 10, 2010 in Webster Groves, MO. Ruth was a long time, faithful and active member of Zion. We extend our prayers and sympathy to her family.

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

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