

LISTEN to the ChurchMouse

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland
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“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”

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Shades of Life

By

Mattie J.T. Stepanek

*The color of sky
is blues and grays.
The color of earth
is greens and browns,
The color of hope
is rainbows and purple.
And the color of peace
is people, together.*

Pastor's Column

This is Thanksgiving Season! It's the time of year when we are particularly mindful of the blessings in our lives. This year I am thankful that our church is 230 years old! It's amazing to consider the heritage we have been given for doing ministry. I am in my 20th year as your pastor, and I am thankful for the ways that we continue to support mission near and far, to host our delicious dinners for the community, to be a place of quiet and reflection in the midst of our media-soaked culture, and to care for one another in times of need.

God has given us the Spirit of generosity, so when we are thankful, we like to give back. We give to hospitals, schools, research organizations, disaster relief, arts organizations, hunger and poverty relief, and other organizations whose mission touches our hearts. Church is another place we commit our money because of our gratitude and thanksgiving for all we have received through the years: teaching, fellowship, care, baptisms, nurture, weddings, worship, communion, funerals, church suppers, joy, holiday celebrations, music, friendships, spiritual growth, and more.

I am glad that our stewardship season this year includes members of our congregation sharing what they are thankful for. They will be speaking each Sunday in November. On two Sundays, November 12 and 19, pledge cards for 2018 will be available for those wish to express their gratitude in that way. Of course, we are delighted to accept gifts from friends of the congregation at any time.

I hope this Thanksgiving season will be a time for all of us to reflect on everything that is good in our lives and in our world, so that we may be filled with joy.

Faithfully,
+Holly

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Deck the Halls

Deck the Halls will be held on December 3rd, immediately following worship. The sanctuary Christmas tree will have a new look this year. We will hang our brass family ornaments and paper "snowflakes." We will not use the multicolor glass ornaments this year. In the pews you will find small paper doilies on which to write prayers, blessings and noted of gratitude. Please use as many doilies as so moved. Wire ornament hangers will be included so we can hang them on the tree during Deck the Halls. Doilies and hangers will remain in pews December 10 and 17 so we can add to the tree. The CHRISTmas spirit is alive at New Scotland Presbyterian Church! An expanded coffee hour will follow the decorating. Please consider to share. See Brenda Dwyer with questions.

Brenda

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The heart is the happiest when
It beats for others.

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man
lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13*

Thanks for the Trunks!

Thanks to everyone who took part in our first Trunk-or-Treat event! We had a wonderful time, in spite of the rain. Thanks again to the New Scotland Volunteer Fire Department for housing us! We had eight trunks, plus the fire police van, and we estimate about 100 kids came to trick-or-treat, along with their adult drivers and chaperones!

We would love to post some photos on the church Facebook or webpage. If you photos to share, please e-mail them to the church office: newscotlandpc@nycap.rr.com

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New Church Employee!

On November 1 we were delighted to welcome our new Church Administrative Assistant, Vicki Morrell; please stop by the office to welcome her! Shirley will be retiring this Wednesday, November 8, and we will have a farewell celebration for her in church on Sunday, November 12.

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Creation Study

Sunday, November 12, after coffee hour, the Rev. Larry Deyss will lead a discussion on the "Affirmation of Creation," written by Boston Presbytery. The document will be considered at the next General Assembly of the PC(USA). All presbyteries and churches have been invited to review it. Copies of the Affirmation are available on the table in the narthex, or you can find it here: <https://albanypresbytery.org/wp->

[content/uploads/sites/52/2016/09/222nd-General-Assembly-action-on-Item-14-13-Affirmation-of-Creation.pdf](#)

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Free Piano

Frank Person has a Wurlitzer spinet upright piano in excellent condition that he would like to give away. If you know anyone who could use this instrument, please be in touch with John Relyea, 518-765-2170.

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Fall Clothing Drive by Mardell Steinkamp

Now that the weather has changed, it is time for us to go through our winter clothes and decide what we will keep and what can be given away. So, we will again host a fall clothing drive to benefit the women and men at the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany. The collection boxes will be in the lobby Sunday, November 6th, through Thursday, November 30th. Please bring gently used winter clothes that you no longer want but others could use. If you have old clothes which are not appropriate (worn or torn) you can put them in the big blue box behind the church.

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He who buries his talent is making a grave mistake.

Neglect not the gift that is there...
1 Timothy 4:14a

Digest for Nov 5 Meeting, by Holly Cameron

The Session and Board of Deacons had their annual joint meeting. Items discussed include:

1. Our Secretary, Shirley Unser is retiring November 8, and will join us on Sunday, November 12 so we can wish her well.
2. New Church Administrative Assistant, Vicki Morrell, started work November 1.
3. Nominating Committee will begin meeting soon. Members are Session: Christine Cameron and Mardell Steinkamp co-chairs; Deacons: Ann Putnam; At-large: Dan Coons, Dorothy Kohler, Jane Norris, Carol Wickham.
4. Upcoming Dates/Holiday Schedule – “Affirmation of Creation” study 11/12; “Deck the Halls” 12/3; Potluck lunch & baskets 12/10; 4th Sunday of Advent 12/24 at 10:00 a.m.; Christmas Eve Candlelighting 12/24 at 7:00 p.m.
5. Annual Meeting Date set for Sunday, January 28, 2018. Items for Annual Report due in the Church Office by Thursday, January 11.
6. “Trunk or Treat” event went well; there were about 100 kids. We are grateful to the New Salem Fire Department for partnering with us!
7. Agreed to use “Barbecue Delights Catering” for Chicken BBQ, Thursday, July 11, 2018. We will be able to sell both chicken and rib dinners.
8. Turkey Supper Results: Fed about 415 paying customers plus about 40 workers.
9. Thanks to Ann Putnam, who has been keeping the Prayer List for the

- past few years, and to Sandy Warner, who has taken over that job.
10. Approved new member Tamara Caruso, who will join the church Sunday, November 12.
11. Approved putting out flyers about our Fall Clothing Drive, so the community can participate. The Drive will go through the end of November.
12. Elder Margaret Ewart attended training and is now approved to officiate at communion in the event a clergy person is unavailable.
13. Committee numbers needed to prepare 2018 budget.
14. Pat, Margaret, and Holly have been to last three presbytery meetings. Presbytery is still considering future staffing plan; Tod Bolsinger, author of Canoeing the Mountains, was speaker for education meeting; Terms of Call for 2018 increased by 3%; supply moderator and pulpit supply fees also increasing for 2018. Mardell will be the delegate for the November 15 presbytery meeting.
15. The Rev. Cameron attended Healthy Boundaries Workshop on November 4; all clergy are required to take this every 5 years.

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A critical spirit is like poison ivy –
it only takes a little contact
to spread its poison.

*But avoid wordy and empty chatter,
for it will lead to further
ungodliness,
and their talk will spread
like gangrene...*

2 Timothy 2:16, 17a (NASB)

Christmas Baskets

Christmas basket assembly, potluck lunch and visiting will be December 10. This is the day we spread holiday cheer to our homebound members and remember those who have lost a family member by delivering baskets and poinsettias. What a wonderful way to share the love of Christ! Bring your Christmas spirit, a dish to pass for lunch and consider visiting folks no longer able to worship with us. Visiting can be done in small groups too!

Blessings,
Brenda

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Items Needed for the Baskets

- apples
- bananas
- clementines/cuties
- cheese and crackers snack packs
- peanut butter & crackers snack packs
- fruit cups (with easy open lids)
- candy canes & other candy
- homemade cookies
- small boxes of raisins
- pudding cups

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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Autumn Wardrobe

The leaves fall, the wind blows and the farm country slowly changes from summer cottons into its winter wools

...Henry Beston

Birthdays

We wish a Very Happy Birthday to these people celebrating in the month of December:

- 1stAlbert Miller Jr.
- 3rdBruce Thornton
Tom De Lorenzo
- 6thNureen Francis
- 8thSean Gordon
- 10th ...David Miller
- 13th ...Jeremy Gordon
Liz Kirk
- 16th ...Mariah Rose Miller
- 20th ...Jean Warren
- 21st ...Ryan Dwyer
- 26th ...Harry Thornton
- 28th ...Mackenzie Blake
Zachary Thornton
- 30th ...Deborah Blakely
- 31st ...Richard Von Haugg
Patti De Lorenzo

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We wish a Very Happy Birthday to these people celebrating in the month of January:

- 1stRichard Oden
- 5thMary Ewart
Carol Wickham
- 6thRobert Fuglein Jr.
- 8thGale Kohler
- 9thTommy Bela Penta
- 11th ...Dorothy Kohler
- 14th ...Lindsay Rudd Ragone
- 15th ...Daniel Coons
- 17th ...Pam Thornton
- 19th ...Dawn Loux
- 20th ...Stephanie Scaccia Haines
Mitchell Joyce
- 21st ...Judee Miller
- 22nd ...Denise Throop Riedy
- 26th ...Luis Wiest

27th...Homer Warner
 28th...William Crawford
 29th...Diane Bode
 Rebecca Terhune
 31st...Bill Kerr

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We wish a Very Happy Anniversary to this couple celebrating in the month of December:

December 20, 1969
 Karen & Timothy Thornton

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Thank You Veterans!

On Veteran's Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veteran's Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."
 (Isaiah 2:4, NIV)

Communing With Nature

In *More Than Words* (Westminster John Knox), Erin Wathen tells of serving as pastor at a church where, following communion, the children take the leftover bread outside for the birds. One day, Wathen's own youngsters were playing church when they summoned her to a "meeting" for a new church plant.

The kids had planned everything: the building layout, an order of worship, a prayer garden, a grand-opening picnic – and something else, which Wathen didn't initially understand. Then her heart swelled with joy, for she recognized that her daughter meant the post-Eucharist disposal of bread, which clearly, to the child, was a natural and assumed part of church. "[We need] a place," the girl stated casually, "for the animals to have communion."

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Welkin

By

Mattie J.T. Stepanek

*The sky is such
 A perfect blue,
 It must have been
 Painted there.
 Even the clouds
 Bear witness
 To the strokes of
 An artist's brush.
 This just proves that
 God is perfect
 At many professions.*

February 2000

Stewardship – “gifts to God”

by John Griffin

As you know, Holly is always telling us that we all have “Gifts from God,” or talents.

I would like to tell you how our church helped me “nurture” my “talent.”

I have always been musically inclined. After 3rd grade and taking fluto phone I was asked if I would like to play an instrument. My mother wanted me to play trumpet, but I was told my mouth was too big and I was better suited to play trombone!

When a classmate (who took up trumpet) and I were done doing our 4th grade concert, a little ol’ lady shuffled up to us and said “we could be the next Harry James and Tommy Dorsey! (I learned later what a great compliment had been given us!)

Later in grade school and high school I took, via correspondence with a local piano teacher, 6 years of piano training and graduated from the Sherwood Music School in Chicago.

At one time I played Port Able combo organ in a local rock group.

Fast forward to my first attending our church (in the ‘80’s I believe). As we just celebrated “All Saints Day,” some of our own church’s saints started to work their magic.

Our organist and choir director, Beverly Gage, whose name is who we have dedicated our organ to, aptly played by our current organist and choir director, Ryan Dwyer, picked me out of the congregation and asked me if I would like to join the choir and sing.

All that music background and this would be a first! I remember at my first practice (at her home) I asked her what part should I sing? As I can read all the various parts< Doesn’t everyone?! Good thing she told me to concentrate in the bass clef!

With the likes of Lou Van Alstyne, long time music teacher, Nelson Davis, Fredonia State Music College, Tom Parham, long-time member of the Mendelssohn Club, Jean Warren, a graduate of the Julliard School of Music, who was a paid choir member in New York City in her younger days, I was in good company to “nurture” this new found gift.

It must have worked, as in the summer of 2013, I was “discovered” by the then president of the Mendelssohn Club of Albany and invited to try out for the club.

You’ll never know how proud a moment it was in the fall of 2013, when that same person announced that I had just become the newest member of the Mendelssohn Club of Albany. Remember, none of this would have happened if not for our church.

As we have also just celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation which created our denomination, I should remind you that if that had not occurred, we could be asking you to pay for “indulgences” to offset your sins to support our church, but instead ask you to voluntarily give during our stewardship campaign and give back with our “gifts to God” so we can continue to nurture the future “Gifts from God” for all people in our congregation.

Holiday PLACE MATS

Add fall décor to your family's Thanksgiving table by making these festive place mats.



What you need:

- Large pieces of paper
- Several large leaves
- Crayons (fall colors)
- Fine-tip permanent marker

What you do:

1. Working on a flat surface, place the leaves underneath the paper.
2. Peel the wrappers off the crayons. Rub crayons sideways over the paper so the details of the leaves become visible.
3. Use other crayons to add additional details, if desired. With the marker, list what you're thankful for and add a Bible verse about thankfulness.
4. Optional: Laminate the place mats so they're reusable.

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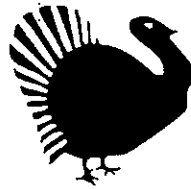
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GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,
K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,
S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" _____ will _____ 19 _____ 5

_____ name in _____ 7

and _____ with

_____ "

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