

# *LISTEN* to the ChurchMouse

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland

2020 New Scotland Road

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*“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”*

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*Are like pirate treasure chests...*

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*Dark and gray-black and*

*An Angel Through My Mommy*

*Sometimes a little scary looking*

*But just look behind as they open...*

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*Silver and shiny-gold and*

*Usually bright and warm, if it’s*

“The point is not to pay back kindness  
but to pass it on.”

*Still daytime after the storm.*

Mattie J.T. Stepanek

...Julia Alvarez

May 1996

Age 6

**Buildings & Grounds**

There are always projects in our church and at the manse, which are often paid through the Building Fund. Right now we need to replace the light and lamp post in the parking lot, and the carillon speaker in the sanctuary. Donations to the Building Fund can be made any time. There are special envelopes on the narthex table. Please see any member of the Buildings & Grounds Committee for more information; John Griffin is the Chair of B&G. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

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**CROP Walk**

Sunday, May 6, is the annual CROP Walk for Hunger in Albany. Out of 900 CROP Walks in the nation, Albany is #7! An offering will be taken in church that day. All donations go to alleviate hunger locally and globally. 25% of Albany donations go to support 26 food banks and soup kitchens in the Capital District. Rain or shine registration begins at 12:30 p.m. at the starting point of the walk: First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Ave in Albany. The walk kicks off at 1:30 p.m. and walkers can choose either a one-mile loop or a three-mile loop. Please see anyone on the Mission Committee for more information; Mardell Steinkamp and Christine Cameron are the committee chairs.

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**Book Study**

The Rev. Larry Deyss is leading a series of discussions on the book "Eco-Reformation: Grace and Hope for a Planet in Peril," which is a series of essays on creation theology. Creation theology

encourages us to consider questions such as: What is our relationship to God and our relationship to everything God created? What does it mean for us to follow God's command for us to care for God's creation?

Here is the schedule set by the participants:

- Sunday, April 22 – skim chapter 1, read chapter 2
- Sunday, April 29 – read chapter 3
- Sunday, May 6 – read chapter 4
- Sunday, June 10 – read chapter 6
- Sunday, June 24 – read chapter 8
- Sunday, September 9 – read chapter 9
- Sunday, September 16 – read chapter 16
- Sunday, September 23 – general discussion

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**Finance Information**

As of April 18:

Income to date .....	\$39,287.80
Expenses to date ....	<u>\$39,891.67</u>
Deficit.....	<u>(\$603.87)</u>

Endowment Fund withdrawals so far this year (to meet expenses): \$5,000

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**Annual Spring Supper**

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 Saturday, May 5, is the Annual Spring Supper, an event to raise funds for the church and to feed our friends in the community (generally a few hundred meals are served up). The menu is: roast pork, mashed potatoes, cooked carrots, sauerkraut, green bean salad, rolls, and pie for dessert. The dining room will serve dinner from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Of course, we need everyone in the church to help make the dinner a success! There are many jobs to do, including: make the

green bean salad, peel potatoes and carrots, set up the dining room, prepare baked goods to bring in, waiting tables, working in the kitchen, helping in the parking lot, and clean-up crew at the end.

As you can see, your time and talents are needed to make our dinner a success! In addition to the satisfaction of offering your gifts, all the workers at the dinner get to eat for free! This year we ask all church workers, who are able, to park your car at the New Scotland Town Hall. This keeps our church parking lot open for paying customers. If you need someone to drive your car down to the Town Hall, just come to the church parking lot and let us know. See you at the dinner!

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**Women's Communion Breakfast**

All women and girls are cordially invited to attend the Women's Communion Breakfast to be held on Pentecost: Sunday, May 20. The Rev. Cameron will conduct the Communion Service at 7:00 a.m. Following the service the men of the church will serve breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

After breakfast, Irene Harbison from Delmar Presbyterian Church, will present a program "Loving Our Neighbors," about helping homeless children in the Capital District. Irene will discuss her experiences with the "Kids Club" at the Schuyler Inn Emergency Homeless Family Shelter in Menands, and her church's participation in Family Promise of the Capital Region.

Please join with us as we worship and enjoy the fellowship of this event.

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**Spring Clean-Up Day**

The Buildings and Grounds Commission is sponsoring a clean-up day for the church on Saturday, May 27. We love to make everything fresh and welcoming! Committee Chair John Griffin is organizing the efforts for the day, so please see him and volunteer to help make our church look its best.

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**Church Picnic - Save the Date!**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 3 for New Scotland Presbyterian Church picnic to be held at the New Salem Fire Department pavillion. The picnic is to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our pastor. The Rev. Cameron started with us on June 1, 1998. More details to follow! All are welcome!

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**Mendelssohn Spring Concert**

Friday, May 18, 7:30 p.m., Mendelssohn Club of Albany presents "The Joy of the Journey," at Chancellor's Hall. Tickets are \$20, but \$16 for a group. If you would like a group ticket, please see John Griffin.

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**The Giver**

It is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out-give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to him, he will find a way to give back to me much more than I give.

...Charles Spurgeon

## Pastor's Column

In October, we celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. In the early 1500's there was basically one church, what we now call the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther, a German monk and seminary professor, was concerned over some of the Church's practices, including selling "tickets to Heaven." These "indulgences" claimed that you could pay money to have your sins forgiven and get out of Purgatory quicker; you could buy them for yourself and on behalf of your relatives who had already died. Luther thought this must be a local scam, so he wrote to the Pope, expecting the Pope to put a stop to this practice. But, the Pope seemed to think it was a good fundraiser, and did nothing. Luther wrote down 95 things he thought the Church was doing wrong. The Church did not agree, and excommunicated Luther. Many other people did agree, and started worshipping where Luther was preaching. Eventually, they called themselves Lutherans. Other theologians who protested (that's why we are called "Protestants," because we were protesting) had people who followed them, and that's how all the Protestant denominations began: Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and all the rest.

It's been said that every 500 years, the church has a "rummage sale" and major cultural changes happen. We are in that time now – a time of a new Reformation. Any of us who were born and raised in the 20<sup>th</sup> century are very aware of the massive cultural changes that have happened in our lifetime. As I write this, on Earth Day, we have just begun a book study in our church on "Eco-Reformation," a group of essays on creation theology. One framework for the discussion was "Salvation is not for sale.

Human beings are not for sale. Creation is not for sale."

The first point comes from Martin Luther saying 500 years ago that "Salvation is not for sale." He taught the scriptures, which say that God forgives anyone who sincerely repents and asks for forgiveness. No money should be involved to forgive sins, since God's grace is a free gift for all.

The second point, "Human beings are not for sale," recognizes that, in the last 500 years, all countries have stopped the legal practice of slavery. While we know there are still many people in the modern world who are forced to work in slave-like circumstances, as nations we have recognized the wisdom of scripture, which says: all people are created by God, we must treat others as we wish to be treated, and "there is no longer slave or free, for we are all one in Christ Jesus."

The third point follows: "Creation is not for sale." For much of human history, we have treated nature as though it is here to serve humanity. If there is something we want, we are perfectly willing to excavate, bulldoze, or kill whatever will get us money or food. This, perhaps, was not such a concern for Martin Luther, when the entire world population was about 500,000 people. We now have about 7.5 billion people on the planet. Obviously we cannot continue to dig up, cut down, build over, and kill everything that suits our fancy.

God made the world sacred. God made day and night, land and sea, trees and plants, animals and birds and fish and insects sacred. Lastly, God made human beings sacred. What if the challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century church is to rediscover the sacred in ourselves and the sacred in God's creation? What if, in the fullness of time,

we come to regard the exploitation of the world as we now regard the exploitation of people – something nations did in the ancient past, but something we would never condone now.

“Salvation is not for sale. Human beings are not for sale. Creation is not for sale.” An interesting reformation call to us on this Earth Day.

Faithfully,  
+Holly

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**Litany for the Lord’s Day**

6th Sunday of Easter – May 6

Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98  
John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Ascension of the Lord – May 10

Acts 1:1-11; Ps. 47 or Ps. 93  
Eph. 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

7th Sunday of Easter – May 13

Acts 1:15-16, 21-26; Ps. 1  
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-9

Day of Pentecost – May 20

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14  
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or  
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27: 16:4b-15

Trinity Sunday – May 27

Isa. 6:1-8; Ps. 29  
Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17;

9th Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 3

1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18  
2 Cor, 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

**June birthdays**

We wish a very Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of June:

- 6<sup>th</sup>.....Stephen Kohler
- 4<sup>th</sup>.....Robert McCormick  
A.J. Parker
- 5<sup>th</sup>.....Albert Miller, Jr
- 6<sup>th</sup>.....Corinne Weeks  
Mark Beavers
- 7<sup>th</sup>.....John Norris
- 8<sup>th</sup>.....Margaret Ewart
- 11<sup>th</sup>.....Barbara Huth
- 16<sup>th</sup>.....Edna Moak Streets  
Joseph Huth  
Shirley Unser  
Paul Steinkamp
- 17<sup>th</sup>.....Emma Victoria Fuglrein
- 21<sup>st</sup>.....Jeffrey Bode
- 28<sup>th</sup>.....Jaime Craft  
Patricia Huth

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**June Anniversaries**

We wish a very Happy Anniversary to the couples celebrating in the month of June:

June 5, 1993

Laurel & Mark Beavers

June 28, 1960

Margaret & Wallace Throop

June 28, 1985

Dawn & Jack Scaccia

June 29, 1958

Sandra & Homer Warner

**Session Meeting Digest for April 8, 2018**

Appointed officers for the year:

Margaret Ewart – Clerk of Session

Kevin Dwyer – Treasurer

Carol Wickham – Financial Secretary

Clerk’s report: Baptism of Charlotte Kathryn Youmans

Kevin Dwyer to be delegate to Presbytery meeting in Cambridge on Saturday, April 21

Approved baptism of Laine Albert Miller

Buildings & Grounds: Motion approved to canvas congregation to make donations for new parking lot/driveway pole & lights as well as new speaker for carillon in the sanctuary

Church picnic June 3rd to celebrate Holly’s 20<sup>th</sup> work anniversary

Next meeting April 30<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour

Report written by

John Griffin

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**Restart You Heart**

Pain and loss are inescapable on this earth; fortunately, the Great Physician specializes in fixing hearts. Our participation is vital to recovery, though, as Danny Gokey sings in “Tell Your Heart to Beat Again.”

The song was inspired by a pastor asking to watch a cardiac surgeon – one of his congregants – in action. When the doctor attempted to restart the patient’s after repairing it, the organ wouldn’t cooperate. The surgeon knelt to speak to his patient: “We have fixed your heart. We have repaired it. There is nothing wrong with

your heart. If you can hear me, I need you to tell your heart to beat again.” And it did – because she did.

“You can get back up again,” says Gokey, who faced loss when his first wife died. “You can move forward with your life, and you don’t have to walk with a limp.” God has fixed our hearts, Gokey says, but we need to recognize that – and begin to hope again.

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***An Angel Through My Mommy***

*My Mommy comes through  
In many different ways ...  
She sees through  
The eyes of an Angel,  
With which everything and  
Everyone is somehow beautiful.  
She feels through  
The touch of an Angel,  
And knows which  
Touches are good and bad.  
She helps through  
The care of an Angel,  
Being there for me in my life,  
And for every friend and kin.  
She acts through  
The spirit of an Angel,  
Knowing when to comfort and  
When to laugh and to cry.  
My Mommy comes through  
In many different ways ...  
And in all of them,  
The world is blessed through  
The life of an Angel ...  
My Mommy.*

Mattie J.T. Stepanek  
May 2000  
Age 10