



**:: Worship 10:30 am ::**

Church Office: 518-235-3851

Church Office Hours

Sunday & Monday - Closed

Tuesday-Friday - 9:00am – 12:00pm

Saturday - Closed

Email: [office@cornerstoneccl.org](mailto:office@cornerstoneccl.org)

Web: [www.cornerstoneccl.org](http://www.cornerstoneccl.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cccl.org](http://www.facebook.com/cccl.org)

Cornerstone  
Community Church  
570 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
PO Box 386  
Troy NY 12182

## **February 2012 Newsletter**

Address Correction Requested

### ***Special This Month***

Page 2 & 3 – Summary of Annual Congregational Meeting

Page 4 & 5 - Church Life & Outreach/ Member Care

Page 9 - Worship during February

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Cornerstone Congregation met in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 29, 2012 with XX people in attendance.

The following is a summary of the various reports and actions taken:

At the close of 2011 we had 335 professing members on our books. Four were received into membership, while six were removed – five by death. Of those 335 members, 190 are active and 145 are 'inactive'; 63 are 'active' Presbyterians and 127 'active' Methodists. We have one Affiliate Member (An Affiliate member has their membership in another congregation, but while living locally has 'affiliated' with us).

In 2010 we needed nearly \$64,000 to cover our budget deficit. The handwriting was not only on the wall, but it was written in bold-faced red indelible Magic Marker™. We couldn't, and can't, cover such yearly deficits from investments any longer.

But look at this year.

In 2011 we 'only' needed \$5,000 to cover our deficit. That's a 92% decrease! What happened?

What happened were some very difficult decisions on the part of our Personnel Ministry Team to suggest cutting some of our paid positions -- which Council regretfully approved. Thankfully, those persons were so committed to the ongoing life of the congregation that they, and others joining them, still see that what they previously did while paid, still gets done now that they are volunteering their time.

What happened was our Stewardship Ministry Team went back to the congregation and told you the whole picture and asked for help. And the congregation (YOU!) did help... note the line items on the 2011 Year-End Treasurer's Report which point out that pledgers and non-pledging regular

givers donated 111% of what we were hoping for at the beginning of the year. And the plate offerings were up 108%; and one-time special gifts and 'emergency' pledges were 121% of what people said they'd help with; and our special fuel offering was 112% of expected income.

And if this wasn't enough... donations and other income (dinners, sales, building usage donations, etc.) were up another 122%. This includes our always generous special monthly missional basket offerings.

Added to all this has been the opening of The Corner Shoppe this past August. The Corner Shoppe has been a surprise, a delight, and an increasingly important financial and mission event within our Congregation.

Many of our previous Officers and Leaders were re-elected to their previous positions, but we do welcome some new leaders: Linda Nitz was elected as a Member-at-Large to the Church Council; Byron Moak will be joining the Personnel Ministry Team; Gary Miller is now our Alternate Lay Member to the United Methodist Annual Conference. The Trustee Ministry Team Class of 2014 consists of Cindy Ciabotte, Janice Eden, Larry Moss and Will Sproat.

A copy of the complete listing of Officers, leaders and elected members of the Congregation is posted in the Fellowship Hall by the Sanctuary entrance.

The membership of most of the Ministry Teams is not by election but by interest. Worship & Music, Christian Education, Church Life & Outreach/ Member Care, and Stewardship are all open to any of the congregation interested in those areas. Soon we will have a booklet outlining each Ministry Team's area of work within the congregation available to help you decide.

**A copy of the 2011 Reports Booklet is available from the Church Office or digitally at [www.cornerstoneccl.org](http://www.cornerstoneccl.org).**

## **CHURCH NURSERY**

Nursery care is an important part of being a welcoming congregation. To that end we are seeking volunteers to help staff our Worship nursery. Nursery guidelines are being developed to help insure the safety of our children and their care givers. This is in accordance with our *Safe Sanctuaries* policy.

Volunteers would be scheduled for one Sunday per month to insure full coverage.

Please let Pastor Siebold or Jan Eden know if you have questions or are interested in helping.

## **CHURCH LIFE/OUTREACH/MEMBER CARE NEWS**

### Yankee Candle Sale to be held at Cornerstone in March

We will be conducting a Yankee Candle fundraiser for Cornerstone from March 1 to 21. There will be catalogs available for your browsing pleasure. It is particularly helpful if you are someone who can bring the catalog to your work place. Look for more information in early March. Barb Walters and Julie Sproat will be heading the campaign up this year.

### Joseph House Lunch

On Saturday, January 28 members of the Church Life/Outreach/Member Care team prepared a meal to be served at Joseph House and Shelter in Troy. Residents were served a lunch of meat loaf, baked potato, corn, bread and butter, and brownies. It certainly smelled great. Thanks to those of you who helped us.

### February Fuel Offering

On Sunday, February 19 there will be a special "Fuel Offering" collection. Please look in your envelope box for the PINK Fuel Offering envelope. If you forget yours (or don't have one), there will be extra envelopes available in the rear of the sanctuary.

## School Bags for Haiti

We have learned that residents of Haiti are in dire need of school supplies. Below are directions for assembling school bags. Please note that they are NOT requesting cloth bags, as the Haitian women will prepare them.

(Page 6 – Calendar Insert)

*Filling the School Bag – Each bag should contain the following items (NO SUBSTITUTIONS, PLEASE).*

1. Two pads of lined yellow or white paper, 8 1/2" by 11"
2. 1 pair blunt children's scissors
3. 1 12" ruler
4. 1 pencil sharpener
5. 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
6. 1 2" eraser
7. 1 pack of colored pencils (10-12 per box, can remain in box) NO CRAYONS, PLEASE - they melt in the extreme temperatures of Haiti

- Please remove all items from packaging)
- Place all items in a large(1 ½ gallon) ziploc bag.
- Please include \$1.00 for each bag to pay for the labor of the women in Port-au-Prince who sew the bags.

So during January and the first two weeks of February we ask that if you are able, you assemble a bag or two.

**WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/cccl.org](http://www.facebook.com/cccl.org)

Our Newsletter and Email Updates are primarily for our own congregation, but our Facebook Page is our public face for all to see. If you are on Facebook, why don't you visit us – and 'Like Us': **[www.facebook.com/cccl.org](http://www.facebook.com/cccl.org)**

### **COUNCIL & MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS**

Church Council	Tues., Feb. 14, 6:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Worship & Music	Tues., Feb. 7, 6:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Trustees	Tues., Feb. 28, 6:30pm	Lounge
Church Life/Member Care	Sun, Mar. 11, 11:45am	Lounge
Education	none yet scheduled	
Personnel	Sun., Feb. 19, 11:45am	Lounge
Stewardship	none yet scheduled	

### **NOTE TO INSIDE & OUTSIDE GROUPS USING THE BUILDING**

We continue to have problems with groups leaving the building following their meeting with lights left on, toilets running, and even leaving the door unlocked.

Please note – ***there is NO custodian closing up after you.*** If you forget and leave a light on – it will remain on and burn electricity ***all night***. If a toilet is running – we will be paying for the water free-running ***all night***. If the door is left unlocked – the building will be open and vulnerable ***all night***.

EVERY group, church-based or community-based, is responsible for their own closing. If you have been issued a key, then **YOU** are responsible for the group's closing. Even if another group has already unlocked a door, or turned on a light, when YOU leave, YOU see that the door is locked, the lights out and the toilets aren't running (just jiggle the handle like you do at home when necessary!).

We love to have the building used... we want to have the building used ... please help us to not abuse it.

### **LITURGISTS WANTED**

Do you enjoy getting up and speaking in front of a group of people? Do you think you might like being a Liturgist? If so, please let Connie Goodwin know any Sunday before or after church. We would love to add your name to our list.

## **WORSHIP DURING FEBRUARY**

February 5 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

Celebration of Holy Communion

Mission Offering: Souper Bowl of Caring

Anthem: *He is Lord of All*"

Scripture: Nahum 1:1-15 – *Salvation & Doom*

Mark 1:29-39 – *Healing of Simon's M-i-L*

February 12 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

Scouting Sunday

Anthem: *Lord, Work a Miracle*

Scripture: Mark 1: 40-45 – *Cleansing of a Leper*

February 19 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

Special Offering: Fuel Offering

Anthem: *In Every Song*"

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9 – *The Transfiguration*

February 22 – Ash Wednesday

Pot-Luck Worship Series

Observance of Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion and the Administration of Ashes.

February 26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Anthem: *Come Away*

Scripture: Mark 1: 9-15 – *Jesus in the Wilderness*

## **NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?**

We now have 51 monthly Newsletters being 'mailed' out each month by email. It's simple to change your 'subscription' from the paper Newsletter to a convenient digital version – just send an email to [pastor@cornerstoneccl.org](mailto:pastor@cornerstoneccl.org) requesting this service. The newsletter will be sent to you as an Adobe (.PDF) file.

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARIES:**

Birth and Anniversary dates have been removed in the online-edition for privacy concerns.

## **FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

### **DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?**

Periodically we send out brief calendar updates, meditations, etc. by e-mail. If you would like to be included, please send an email to [pastor@cornerstoneccl.org](mailto:pastor@cornerstoneccl.org).

It is often easier to reach pastor Siebold by e-mail than by leaving a message on the office phone (which cannot be accessed while away from the office).

**Have YOU made a pledge  
for 2012 yet?**

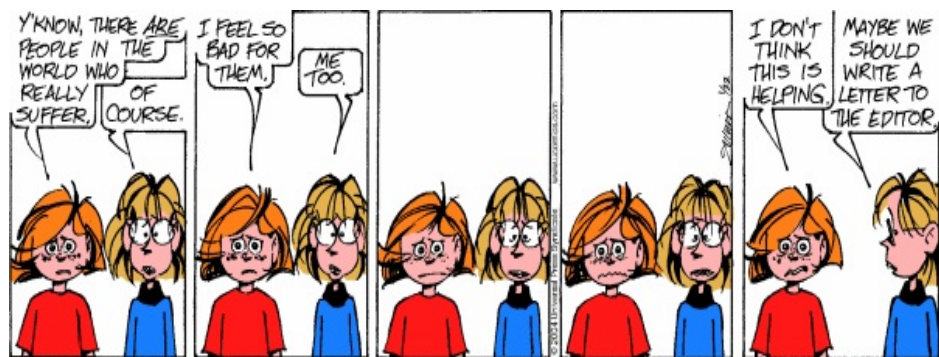
## **THANK YOU TO THE AARP OF LANSINGBURGH**

The AARP of Lansingburgh, meeting at the Lansingburgh Veterans facility, 122<sup>nd</sup> St at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, have donated their monthly food donation to the Cornerstone Food Pantry.

So we offer a sincere "Thank You" for their support. Seniors are always welcome to their meetings.

## FOOD PANTRY

At the present time our food pantry is fairly well stocked, thanks to the donations from many of you. We recently received a donation from the Diamond Rock Apartments, which was a very unexpected but a very welcome and appreciated gift. As for what we need now pasta and pasta sauces are always needed, as are dinners in a can/box or package, hot cereals, mac 'n cheese, peanut butter and jams/jellies and desserts. Thank you for your continued support and remember - the first Sunday of the month is Food Pantry Sunday.



## THANK YOU...

We have been given some wonderful historic material for our archives recently.

From the Eaton family: *A Reception and Dinner For our Returned Veterans* booklet dated Oct. 23, 1946 and a *Program of Progress* booklet from the time of Rev. Thomas Evans.

From Millie Follett: Boy Scout and Cub Scout newspaper clippings and photos going back to 1938. First Presbyterian Church was the site of the first Cub Pack (Troop #1!) in Troy. Included is a Boy Scouts of America *Charter* granted to the First Presbyterian Church in 1971 for Pack 611.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Church Office phone: 518-235-3851 Email: Pastor@CornerstoneCCL.org

This has been a good year.

This time last year we didn't know it was going to be a good year. This time last year we were questioning our congregation's viability. We had begun making some changes, some paid positions became volunteer positions, some numbers were shuffled from here to there. But we were just shuffling – like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. But a bit ago we had done some talking, dreaming, pondering, what-if-ing... One idea tossed around was a Thrift Shop. But, like some of the other ideas which went nowhere, the Thrift Shop went fallow – until it was apparently time. Just because a 'field lies fallow', it doesn't mean stuff isn't happening. The idea germinated quietly, then the Corner Shoppe happened. It seemed to be organized quickly, but it took a lot of work. And it has made a lot of difference to Cornerstone's life. Not just the bottom line, but to our spirit, and to our sense of purpose.

While past performance is never an accurate indicator of future performance (I read that somewhere) ... we've shown ourselves to be adaptable and, yes, pretty viable. Not rich. Not profitable even. But viable. Actually, I'd venture to say more than viable... we have shown that we can not only be the Cornerstone Community, but we have learned a little more about being the Church alive within our community.

Will this be a good year?

This time, this year, we don't know. What will develop and surprise us this year? Ideas anyone?? When the ground has been prepared, and the seeds planted... the next new idea will spring up. I, as pastor, would really like to see some solid **Adult** Christian Education. What do YOU want to see happen.

**See you in Church!**

Pastor Allen