

On Christmas Eve, 2013, the 42nd Christmas Eve Carol Sing was celebrated at the Beaverkill Community Church. The Church was filled to capacity even though at 4 o'clock there had been a flash snowstorm that left 3 inches of fresh snow on treacherous roads. However, the town trucks had plowed the roads by 7.30 and Jim Powell had cleared the parking area.

The Church looked beautiful with the candle light and fresh snow. To start the Carol Sing a choir formed especially for this service and including six children and eight adults sang 'Once in David's Royal City.' Mary Hall, our Lay pastor, welcomed everyone and thanked the many people who had contributed to the purchase of the church from the Methodist Conference this year. She introduced Robert Jones who led the service. Stuart Root, who has lead the service in years past, was with his family in Philadelphia. The kerosene lanterns were lit and with the individual hand held candle lights everyone was able to sing along as Sean Carmichael played the organ.

During the time for announcements, Patricia Adams talked about how the church has been, in reality, a community church for years. The organ was donated by Seth Sternberg, a man of Jewish faith; the piano donated by Grace Van Alts, who was the daughter of an Episcopalian minister; and the installation of these gifts was supervised by our Church Treasurer, Steve Lott, who is Catholic. Every summer we have a variety of speakers at the services, which have included a Buddhist, a Baptist Missionary, and a Rabbi. People are welcome to use the church for Musicales and Film Festivals that are not based in any religion. The Church is primarily a place for celebration in the community.

This sense of community was proved by the great support we got from the community for the purchase of the church. With the new siding, roof and window repair the board of the church decided that this is a good time to restore the steeple, which was struck by lightning in the 1940s. Already, \$12,000 has been raised and \$3,000 is still needed. Cash contributions were left at the church, and any further donations can be sent to Beaverkill Community Church, Box 650, Roscoe, NY 12776. The church is closed now until Memorial Day when it will open for summer services.