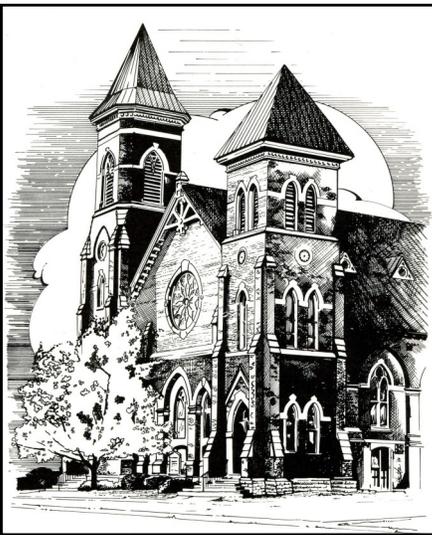


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## November Newsletter 2011



### PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala

This fall on Facebook I have been participating in the Facebook 30 day photo challenge. This is an activity where for 30 days you post a picture to the theme of the day. For instance, day 01-a picture of you and 10 facts about yourself; Day 07- a picture of your most treasured items (my wedding ring and sibling ring); Day 13- a picture of your favorite band or artist (Billy Joel); day 02- a picture of you and the person you have been closest with the longest (my mom). This has been an exciting journey for the last 20 plus days. I have thought about stories and people I haven't recalled in years. I have heard family and friends thoughts on these photos and really been challenged to think.

This journey has allowed me to look at my life from another angle. For instance, day 17- a picture of something that has made a huge impact on your life recently. I posted this picture, because being called as a pastor of this church has been impactful and more rewarding and fulfilling than I could have imagined. Looking at life from another angle helps us to step back and re-prioritize our lives.



In a world full of clutter and information overload it becomes essential to take a serious look at what we value. We need to learn what really matters in our live. Now maybe you don't need a photo challenge on Facebook. Maybe you achieve this goal through morning walks, art, invested in your hobbies, through spending time with your loved ones or coming to church on Sunday morning to reconnect with God and one another.

May we continue to re-evaluate our priorities and may they always match up with the requirements of God, "To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8) Peace

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## SESSION BRIEFS

From meeting of October 24, 2011

- Learned from pastor and clerk that our books passed without exception at Presbytery
- Learned that church committees shall be referred to as ministry teams
- Learned of Pastor Leah volunteer's as a Hospice Chaplain. She is currently seeing two people
- Also learned of pastor's speaking date on Nov. 12 at Elizabeth Cady Stanton birthday party
- Were told about Creative Choices Child Care's plans to update its security system, which will operate only during the center's hours of operation
- Reminder that Sun. Oct. 30 is "Pumpkin Sunday"
- Nominating Ministry Team reported that they are all set with nominations for new Ruling Elders.
- Agreed to receive Christmas Joy Offering on Christmas Eve
- Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th, following worship in the Sanctuary for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders to the Session.

- **Elaine G. Ritter**  
Clerk of Session



**Next meeting is Mon. Nov. 28, 2011**

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lindsey Gee 11/15  
Betty Batty 11/16  
Muriel Horle 11/18  
Dave Kain 11/25  
Phebe Wright 11/27  
Stephen Beals 11/30



"If this is going to be a Christian nation that doesn't help the poor, either we have to pretend that Jesus was just as selfish as we are, or we've got to acknowledge that He commanded us to love the poor and serve the needy without condition and then admit that we just don't want to do it."

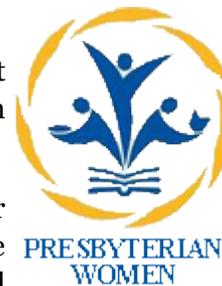


Dec **Newsletter**  
articles due on Nov 24th  
It will be mailed  
On December 1st.

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE

**The Women's Circle** met on Oct. 3rd at the church. We were able to complete eight Personal-Care Kits for the Women's Shelter in Geneva. We will continue this project in November. A baby afghan and hats were also sent.

Joy led the study: "Greatly Honored are the Mourners". Jesus calls his disciples to honor mourners [ritualized public mourning, a common practice], and he calls to account those who live a life of laughter unaffected by their neighbors' tears. ["weepers" not a specialized term like "mourners"].



On **November 20th**, the **third Sunday** item for the House of Concern is **Breakfast Cereal**.

The **next meeting** will be on **Mon., Nov. 7 at 12:30** at the church. Bring a sandwich and come, join us.

- Jean Morris

NOVEMBER Special Item ! NOVEMBER

### ***Breakfast Cereal***

*House of Concern*

## VANDERKAMP WINTER RETREAT

**Feb. 3 – Feb. 5, 2012**

It's that time again! Time to start thinking about Vanderkamp 2012! Though October was fairly mild, winter and snow will soon be upon us. Since our numbers have been holding steady the past couple of years, we decided last year to reserve Robert lodge and the smaller Resurrection lodge again. However, if I am sensing that interest is higher than normal this year, I would be happy to try to get us a bigger lodge. So please start thinking about it and talking it up among your family and friends. We pay a set fee for the lodges, which means that the price per person will depend on the number of people who attend. I am estimating the cost will be approximately \$100 per person, which includes 2 nights stay and 3 meals. Children from age 6 to 12 only need to pay for their meals (\$12.25). Children under 6 are totally free. In order for me to calculate the price per person in a reasonable time frame, I am asking for commitments by Jan. 15, 2012.

In case you are new to the church and are wondering what Vanderkamp is, Vanderkamp is an ecumenical, year-round retreat center located outside Cleveland, NY on the north side of Oneida Lake (about a one hour fifteen minute drive from Seneca Falls). It is situated on 1100 acres of woods with cross-country skiing/hiking trails, a 48-acre lake and lots of peace and quiet. We stay in fully furnished lodges and every family is assigned their own bedroom (with beds). There is a bathroom (with hot showers) for about every 2 bedrooms. It is a wonderful place to spend a weekend if you enjoy outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, skating, sledding and hiking. But it is also a wonderful place to spend a weekend if you just enjoy sitting by a warm fire, playing games and good fellowship.

I have put a sign-up sheet in the church basement. Please, please, please start giving this serious thought now. If you are a regular attendee and know that you cannot make it this year, please let me know. If you are a potential first-timer, please let me know that you are thinking about it. I really need to have firm commitments by early January, though I will not need payment until the end of January.

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is an excellent fellowship opportunity for all ages. Let's fill these 2 lodges! Friends and family are very welcome. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 568-6383.

-Claire Damaske

## **SING AND RING**

We are excited to begin another new year of singing for church services and ringing handbells together with our children. Certainly, it is an enjoyable way of making music and participating in the Sunday services, and we are happy to be a part of sharing this experience with the singers & ringers.

Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays and we will rehearse “**Sing**” from **4:30-5:00** and “**Bells**” from **5:00-5:30**. Mina Choi will be directing the singers, and Marjorie Fahrenholz will lead the ringers.

Wednesday rehearsals in **2011** will be:

**October 26**

**November 2**

**November 9**

**November 16**

**(No Rehearsal on Thanksgiving)**

**November 30 (Only Bells: 5:00-5:30)**

**December 7**

Rehearsals will begin again at the end of April in **2012**. Wednesday rehearsals in 2012 will be:

**April 25**

**May 2**

**May 9**

**May 16**

**May 23**

**May 30**

**The two Sundays we will be singing & ringing will be:**

**December 11, 2011**

**June 3, 2012**

Thank you for encouraging your children to participate in this very exciting program. Feel free to contact Mina Choi and Marjorie Fahrenholz if you have any questions about this program.

Mina: [orgue4him@gmail.com](mailto:orgue4him@gmail.com) (817-201-5618)

Marge: [dandmfahrenholz@gmail.com](mailto:dandmfahrenholz@gmail.com) (315-651-2409)

Mina Choi and Marjorie Fahrenholz

## **HANDBELL REPORT**

**November 2011**



As I said in the October newsletter there have been several unexpected changes in our bell choir, and because there are so many commitments relating to job requirements and family needs of all of our members (myself included), we will have a different number of ringers each month. This will enable us a chance to play music in our files for 2, 3, 4, or 5 octaves of bell music. Also, because many of our ringers are quite capable of playing 4-in hand, it makes it possible for us to play a 3-octave piece with only 8 ringers which usually requires 9 or 10 ringers.

I will be away for the months of January through April but will return for rehearsals beginning April 25. While I am gone Carol will direct the bells during January and March. There will be no rehearsals during February and from after Easter until April 25. Rather than not having bells play during the summer months we will schedule ensemble ringing such as solos, duets, trios etc. Bells will rehearse and perform from May through December. Carol will receive my salary for January and March and I have elected not to be paid for the other 2 months I am away.

Sing & Ring will begin rehearsing on October 26 and will perform early in December and they will rehearse again in May and perform early in June. Mina will work with the singers and I will work with the ringers. There will be more details on this program in the next newsletter. It should be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for the children and directors, too.

If there is someone in the congregation who would like to learn to ring bells, we really do need one or two more bell ringers. We meet on Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 in the Bell Room and we try to play once a month for worship. If you feel you can make that commitment we would really appreciate working with you and I am sure you would enjoy the experience. We will teach you all you need to know prior to coming to your first rehearsal. If this is something you have been thinking about, give me a call and I can talk to you more about what we do.

**Marge**

## Church Family News

**Coffee Hour Summer Vacation** reports on Oct. 9 revealed once again, that our church is not lacking in humor and some of us can be downright hilarious! Coffee drinkers were each given a questionnaire to help get them started. It was interesting to note that in July, one happy gardener/reluctant housewife set as her goal “cleaning the refrigerator” ...by August, it was still on her list and “August came and went and still not cleaned fridge.” Summer’s gone now and we’re looking forward to “cleaning the refrigerator”. This lady has a beautiful flower garden, by the way. Guess who, yet?

**Jean Loar** regaled us with her admiring tale of “Henry”, a ring-neck pheasant remembered from her childhood home on E. Bayard St, where he & “Mrs. Henry” produced 12 little pheasants one year. They all blended in with the leaves of an old Horse Chestnut tree, Jean recalled.

**Karen & Stephen Beals** recalled their June trip to Orlando, FL and Karen’s family reunion in Aug. They’re counting the days now, til they fly to Italy to spend time with daughter Lorraine & fiancé.

**Marv & Iva Lay** opened up their lake cottage where “we entertained our kids and their kids”. They’re now looking forward to visiting son David & family in California, en route to Hawaii, later this winter.

**Liza Merriam** reported that she’d hoped “to go to Brazil” but the trip never happened and she did enjoy Darien Lake. Next summer Liza says she hopes to do more on her computer.

**Wayne & Joyce Lohr** traveled to Fort Collins, CO and were happy to report “our grandsons are older this year and they actually like us!” They traveled to the higher elevations in the Rocky Mts. And for the first time ever, saw moose!

**Susan Derr** attended NASCAR races at Watkins Glen and had a wonderful time.

\* \* \*

**CELEBRATE ‘98 ...remember July 1998** and the big celebration & remembrance that involved the whole village and waves of visitors arriving in chartered buses? Many of us helped with that weekend.

**Are you in the photograph in the narthex?** We’re trying to get as many names as possible to make a written record to mount on the back of the photo. If you weren’t in it, perhaps you’ll recall others who were.

Please contact the church office.

## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY

### ***GRAHAM ANDRUS TO BE HONORED***

Fredonia Radio Systems is holding a remembrance ceremony for Camp Whitman’s counselor who we lost this summer. The ceremony is an event that will honor him as a long-time member of the station. Andrus was a 2006 graduate of Haverling Junior-Senior High School and a native of Bath, NY. The remembrance ceremony for Andrus will be held on October 22 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Fredonia Radio Systems in 115 McEwen Hall on the SUNY Fredonia campus in Fredonia, NY. To learn more about the remembrance ceremony for Graham Andrus, call Fredonia Radio Systems at 716-673-3420 ext. 101 or check out [www.fredoniaradio.com](http://www.fredoniaradio.com).

### ***One Day Mission Trip to Owego!***

This coming Wednesday, October 26, First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses (Trumansburg) is planning a trip to Owego to help with the cleanup at the Owego First Presbyterian Union Church and at church members' homes. Please join us! We will meet at Pam Postle's home (2285 Trumansburg Road, Trumansburg) at 8 a.m. to drive down together and plan to return to T'Burg by 4:30 p.m. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. If you're interested in coming, please contact Pastor Cheryl (607-793-3172 or [CherylRPeeples@gmail.com](mailto:CherylRPeeples@gmail.com)) by Sunday evening. Many thanks to Pam Postle for her leadership.

### ***Mixed Bag Fundraiser Reminder!***

Please continue to fundraise until November 3<sup>rd</sup> with your Mixed Bag catalogues that you received at the last Presbytery meeting. If you need more information, another catalogue, or have any questions--please call Rhonda Everdyke at 703.201.4345. We make a 50% profit and those proceeds are going to go towards Presbytery mission trips, including the Washington, DC trip for October 2012.

## USHERS, GREETERS and NURSERY

**Attention: Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 6 -remember to turn clocks back 1 hour when you retire on Sat. 11/05**

### November 6th – Communion

Greeters: Mike & Jan Day  
Ushers: Don & Elaine Ritter  
Nursery: Susan Derr & Barb Van Kirk



### November 13th– Congregational Meeting

Greeters: Connie Richardson & Liza Merriam  
Ushers: Paul Richardson & Don Ritter  
Nursery: Kathy Gee & Matthew Crull

### November 20th– Handbells playing

Greeters: Jean Loar & Jean Morris  
Ushers: Bob & Carolyn Seem  
Nursery: Elaine Ritter & Jan Day

### November 27th– 1st Sunday in Advent

Greeters: Jim & Cherie Clark  
Ushers: Scott & Becky Jessop  
Nursery: Cherie Clark & Carolyn Seem



### December 4th – Communion—2nd Sunday in Advent

Greeters: Barb Lohr & Liza Merriam  
Ushers: Jim & Cherie Clark  
Nursery: Susan Derr & Barb Lohr

**If you are unable to serve on the designated date,  
please call someone to take your place. Thanks for serving!**

## COFFEE HOUR PROGRAMS

**Nov 6th:** Fellowship Hour in Social Hall  
**Nov 13th:** TBA  
**Nov 20th:** The Longevity Code, Jo Ann Mason  
**Nov 27th:** TBA



**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: **Barbara Lohr 568-8998**  
**To Keep in our prayers:** Liz Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Carl Crull, Paul Foote, Mary Headley, Laura Hoatland, Charlene Hooper, Crystal Jones, Doug Kraus, Margaret Marsh, Bobbi Plummer, Sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Jeff Richardson & family, Nancy Shuster, Christopher Simpson, Bob & Jean Stenlake, Alberta Stuck, Cathy Van Vechten, Ruby Vogel, Margaret Yells and Fran Webb  
**Please advise the church office of names to include or remove from this list. Thank you.**

**Remember The House of Concern when you grocery-shop!**

Church Office: 315.568.6636  
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-2:30  
Manse: 315.257.0028

**Sunday Worship at 10am. Nursery Care available. Sunday School 10:15am.  
Coffee Hour in Eastman Hall following worship.**

Rev. Leah Ntuala-Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Peter J. Crego-Pastor Emeritus  
Mina Choi- Director of Music & Organist  
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session  
Karen Beals-Treasurer  
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Hand bell Choir Director  
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton  
Joyce Lohr-Secretary

Session meets of the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.  
Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Richard Damaske, Susan Derr, Kathy Gee, Scott Jessop,  
Marvin Lay, Barbara Lohr, Jannette Monterville, Paul Richardson, Elaine Ritter, Clerk of Session and  
Rev. Leah Ntuala, moderator.

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