

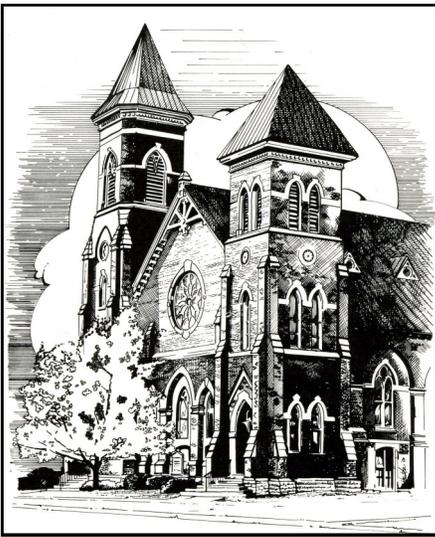
# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

## January Newsletter 2012

### PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Leah Ntuala

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



#### *Inside this issue:*

<i>Session Briefs</i>	2
<i>Birthdays</i>	3
<i>Women's Circle</i>	3
<i>Vanderkamp Retreat</i>	3
<i>News from the Presbytery</i>	4
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	4
<i>Bell Choir</i>	5
<i>Church Family News</i>	6
<i>Prayer List</i>	7
<i>Ushers, Greeters, Nursery</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	insert

It has been a year since you called me; I accepted and we moved to Seneca Falls. It has been a wonderful year full of many joys, blessings, sorrows and surprises. Thank you all for your amazing support of me, the ministry of this church and my family.

The joys, blessings, sorrows and surprises don't stop here; 2012 will hold it's own twists and turns and ups and downs. I know that, like 2011, we will find a way to make it through with thanks and praise to God for all the gifts God has blessed us with as a community.

What does 2012 hold in store for us?

- \* **Ring and Sing:** The children of the church and the community will continue to meet and create music together. I am already looking forward to their concert!
- \* **Mission Projects:** This year I am looking forward to doing a few more mission projects together as a church. In addition to the work we do for the House of Concern, Unicef, Church World Services and our Presbyterian Special Offerings, we are hoping to do a service day "Take it to the Town" in our community. We are also hoping to supply some chemotherapy kits for the Relay for Life Event in June. Keep your eyes open for these opportunities.
- \* **Fundraising:** I know this one may not sound appealing at the moment, but it is a wonderful way to use the gifts God has given to us to serve this community. We can serve the community with baked goods while reminding them that all are welcome to God's Table and we are a church that is welcoming of the variety of journeys a life with God has to offer. If nothing else, a fundraiser will make sure people in the community know where the First Presbyterian Church is located and that is always a step in the right direction. We can celebrate that small joy!

I feel so blessed to be a part of your lives and this community. I don't know what God has in store for 2012, but I know if you are all a part of that journey than it is sure to be fun and spirit filled. I pray your new year is blessed with love, peace, hope and joy!

Peace, Pastor Leah

## SESSION BRIEFS

Clerk of Session, Elaine Ritter

The Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls has been changed from the **22nd of January to the 29th of January 2012** due to the Honor of being the Host Church for the Presbytery of Geneva's Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012. This is an honor that is going to require the help and also the volunteering of a majority of our Congregation to succeed with this venture. We will need Greeters, kitchen helpers and all of our bakers to come to the aid of their church family for this event. Breakfast and Lunch will be served on that day by us, for them. Breakfast will be muffins, donuts and finger foods with coffee, tea, OJ and hot chocolate. Lunch will consist of a variety of soups, sandwiches, cookies and beverages. We will have to keep beverages available for the duration of the meeting So this will be a long day for any and all volunteers. If you would like to make or Bake something for this, January 21, 2012 please let Elaine Ritter know whether it be muffins for breakfast, soup, sandwiches or cookies for lunch. If you would like to volunteer any of your services please let Pastor Leah know.

A BIG Thank You to our outgoing Session Members:  
Marvin Lay and Kathy Gee!

We adjourned with a Prayer from Pastor Leah and a Merry Christmas to all! Next meeting Jan. 23rd @ 7 p.m.



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Iva Lay-1/01  
Barbara Lohr-1/05  
Duane Snyder-1/05  
Leah Ntuala-1/06  
Jean Loar- 1/08  
Kiersten Dunbar-1/12  
George Becker-1/19  
Harriet Hoster-1/20  
Jean Stenlake-1/22  
Karen Beals-1/28  
Ben Jessop-1/29



February Newsletter  
articles due on  
January 19th.  
It will be mailed  
On January 26th.

## WOMEN'S CIRCLE

After being snowed out last year we really enjoyed sharing a bountiful Pot Luck Luncheon on December 4th. Twenty one were present including Virginia Champlin from Geneva Presbytery and Carol Limner from Ovid representing Geneva Presbytery women. Seventeen packages and two large boxes of diapers were collected Plus two packages of wipes. The House of Concern was delighted to receive these. Our January meeting will be January 9th due to the first Monday falling so close to the holidays. We will study lessons 4 and 5 in the study of the Beatitudes. All are welcome-bring a sandwich at 12:30

-Jean Morris

### 3rd Sunday House of Concern items are:

**Jan. 15 : Mac & Cheese**

**Feb. 19: Soup**

**March 18: Canned Veggies & Fruits**



## VANDERKAMP WINTER RETREAT

**Feb. 3 – Feb. 5, 2012**

Our Vanderkamp retreat weekend is only 1 month away. Several people have signed up on the sheet in the church basement, but there is plenty of room for more! Remember, family and friends are always welcome. The more, the merrier! I will be asking for firm commitments in the next week or two so that I can calculate the price per person. I am estimating that the price for the weekend, which includes 2 nights and 3 meals, will be approximately \$100 per adult. Children ages 6-12 only have to pay for their meals (\$12.25) and children under 6 are free. I will not need payment until the end of January.

This retreat weekend is a wonderful 2 days of fellowship, fun and food. You do not have to be an outdoor enthusiast, as there are always plenty of activities going on in the lodges. However, the scenery and tranquility there are spectacular! Please contact me if you would like more information or have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 568-6383. Also, check out the Vanderkamp web site at [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org)

-Claire Damaske



## CHANCEL CHOIR

Sing, Sing, Sing!

It is hard to believe that year 2011 is almost over. I remember vividly when I had my first rehearsal with the Chancel Choir in September, and since then, it's been a huge blessing to work with the singers who have so much passion for music and strong commitment. So far, we have covered various repertoires from renaissance, baroque, romantic, and contemporary periods, and of different styles and levels of performance. As I look back on our last four months, I would like to applaud the Chancel choir singers who have worked so hard to accomplish these repertoires to glorify God and to serve the church wholeheartedly.



From October, we initiated Sing & Ring program for children from our church and this community. Children seemed quite shy at the beginning, but soon they started singing louder and joyfully. When children sang during the service in December, we as the congregation were so blessed, and many expressed their excitement and joy about seeing children singing at the church. I would like to express special thanks to all of our parents and Marge Fahrenholz for heart-filled support and cooperation. We already look forward to our next Sing & Ring program next spring.

Lastly, thank you congregation for sharing your encouraging words and support with our music ministry!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Mina Choi

## NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY and SYNOD



*Seneca Falls, The First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Presbytery meeting on Saturday, Jan 21, 2012. We will need help greeting people, guiding them to know where to park, with lunch and snacks and helping them find their way around our church. If you are available to help with lunch and snacks, please let Elaine Ritter know. Thank you in advance!*

The New Jersey Council of Churches Issues and Action Event Violence in Our Society: The Church Responds is scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The event will be held at the Shiloh Baptist Church located on 340 Calhoun Street ~ Trenton, NJ 08650. Tickets for the event, which includes lunch, can be purchased in advance for \$12.00 in advance or for \$15.00 at the door. Checks should be made payable to the New Jersey Council of Churches and mailed to 176 West State Street ~ Trenton, NJ 08608.

Bryan Miller, Executive Director of Ceasefire New Jersey, will be the keynote speaker. Workshop topics will include Bullying, Alternatives to Violence-Restorative Justice, Gang Violence, Violence in the Media, and Domestic Violence.

For more information, contact the New Jersey Council of Churches Office by phone at 609-396-9546 or email at [office@njcouncilofchurches.org](mailto:office@njcouncilofchurches.org).

## HANDBELL REPORT



Since I will be in Florida for the months of January, February, March and April and since Carol Millis will be subbing for me – here is the schedule of rehearsal dates and performances:

**JANUARY** Rehearsals Wednesday Jan. 4, 11, 18 ,Time 7:15 – 8:15  
Performance Sunday Jan. 22

**FEBRUARY** no rehearsals until Wednesday Feb. 29, Time 7:30 – 8:30

**MARCH** Rehearsals Wednesday March 7, 14. Time 7:30 – 8:30  
Performance Sunday March 18

Performance for bells on Easter (April 8) will be without a director; an ensemble will play. If you would like to be a part of this ensemble please let me know as soon as possible. Carol has had much experience in ensemble playing and will be able to rehearse this group with a great bit of knowledge.

Rehearsals for Easter service will be March 21, 28, and April 4.

So that Carol will have a list of bell ringers for the different performances, I will call all bell ringers after December 26 to have the list ready for Carol.

I will be back for rehearsal on April 25. See you then.

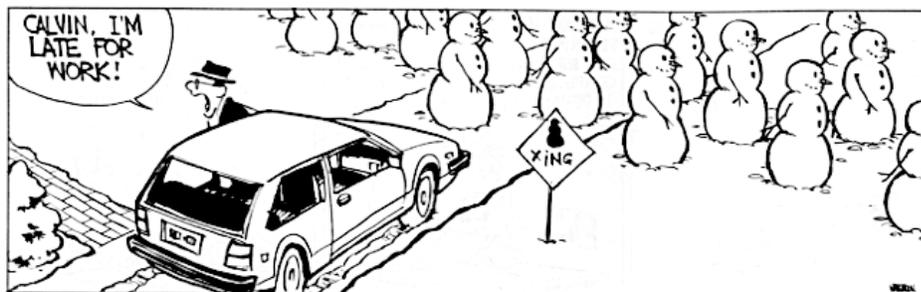
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*-Marge*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### Christmas Eve Service is 7 p.m. Saturday-we hope to see you there!

- ◆ Thank you to all the people who helped to deliver the poinsettias to our friends and neighbors.
- ◆ A **BIG THANK YOU** to Elaine Ritter for all her work this past month in the church office.
- ◆ Welcome to Chris (Schaertl) Sweet our new office manager. Chris was born and raised in Seneca Falls. She and her husband have recently returned to the area. She will begin on Tuesday, January 3rd. Her hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30am-12:30pm. Please stop in and meet her when you get a chance.
- ◆ **Annual Reports are due on Jan 8th.** If you haven't submitted your report to the church office please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!
- ◆ We have received Thank You cards from Sue Ellen Crego, Bobbi Plummer, Bobbi Chase and Fran Webb. Christmas card from the Stenlakes and the Wrights. Finally, a hearty Thank You letter from the House Concern for all your support
- ◆ Jim Clark would like to thank everyone for the support of Geoff Tyler.  
Here is what was sent.:
  - \*30 lbs beef jerky (various flavors) this make 7 completely full gallon size zip lock bags
  - \*5 lbs venison jerky
  - \*2 large packages of beef sticks
  - \*3 large packages slice beef jerky
  - \*10 large packages gum
  - \*2 large packages mints
  - \*2 large canisters of dry Gatorade mix
  - \*2 large restaurant style boxes of hot chocolate
  - \*large container of fire balls
  - \*2 large bags of Hershey mini bars
  - \*10 sealed pouches of tuna
  - \*3 super large packages of batteries



## USHERS, GREETERS and NURSERY

### January 1st– Communion

Ushers: Susan Derr and Elaine Ritter  
 Greeters: Jean Loar and Jean Morris  
 Nursery: Jan Day and Carolyn Seem



### January 8th– Baptism of the Lord

Ushers: Mike and Jan Day  
 Greeters: Andy and Betty Batty  
 Nursery: Barb Van Kirk and Matt Crull

### January 15th

Ushers: Bob and Carolyn Seem  
 Greeters: Jerry and Barb Gray  
 Nursery: Barb Lohr and Elaine Ritter

### January 22nd

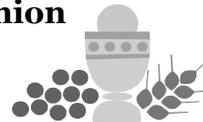
Ushers: Scott and Becky Jessop  
 Greeters: Liza Merrian and Jean Loar  
 Nursery: Susan Derr and Kathy Gee

### January 29th-Annual Meeting

Ushers: Donald and Elaine Ritter  
 Greeters: Barb Lohr and Barb Van Kirk  
 Nursery: Jan Day and Bob Seem

### February 5th– Communion

Ushers: Jim and Cherie Clark  
 Greeters: Paul and Connie Richardson  
 Nursery: Matt Crull and Barb Lohr



## COFFEE HOUR AND PRAYER LIST

**Jan 1st:** No Coffee Hour; HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Jan 8th:** Come and Celebrate Pastor Leah's 34th Birthday and 1st Anniversary!

**Jan 15th:** Ink wells - history - Marvin Lay

**Jan 22nd:** Lessons of Aging: Arthritis, Ms. Jo Ann Mason

**Jan 29th:** No Coffee Hour; Annual Meeting in the Social Halls



**Know someone ill or hospitalized?** This month, please call: Barb Van Kirk 568-9908

**To Keep in our prayers:** Liz Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Bob Didsbury, Paul Foote, Bob & Betty Geraghty, Mary Headley, Crystal Jones, Margaret Krane, Joan Olmstead, Bobbi Plummer, sally Porsch, Don Proctor, Jeff Richardson & Family, Nancy Shuster, Alberta Stuck, Cpl Geoffrey Tyler, Cathy Van Vechten, Ruby Vogel, Margaret Yells and Fran Webb.

Church Office: 315.568.6636  
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 7:30am-12:30pm  
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 Farenholz- Hand Bell Choir Director  
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton  
Chris Sweet-Office Manager

*Session meets of the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.*

Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Jim Clark, Richard Damaske, Susan Derr Scott Jessop,  
Karen Kelley, Barbara Lohr, Jannette Monterville, Paul Richardson, Bob Seem and Carolyn Seem  
Elaine Ritter, Clerk of Session and Rev. Leah Ntuala, moderator.

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