

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SENECA FALLS

July and August Newsletter 2011



Pastor's Corner-Rev. Leah Ntuala

In June , I was asked to be a part of the Children and Family Resource Board. They have offices in Geneva, Penn Yam and Seneca Falls. I am very excited about this journey. I feel like it will provide me the opportunity to work with young families in our country, as well as introducing our church to people through hosting some of the classes and workshops that CFR provides.

In case you are unfamiliar with CFR, here is their mission statement and website address. Child and Family Resources, Inc. is dedicated to providing affordable, accessible programs that enhance and support the education of parents, caregivers, and child care providers, as well as encourage the highest quality of care and positive learning experiences for young children. <http://www.cfresources.org/>

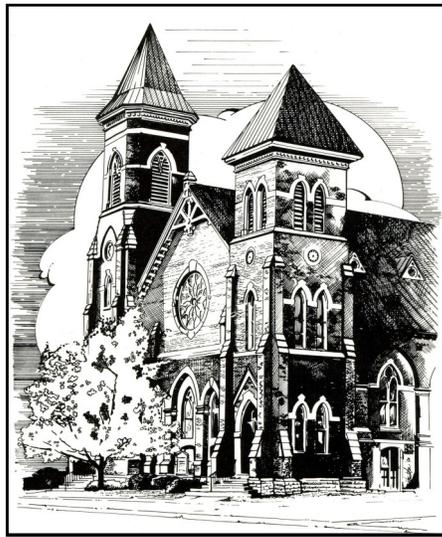
Summer has really started but we aren't slowing down. Summer is the time to plan for the fall. This fall I am hoping to begin Pasta and Pastor. This is an opportunity for all of us to get to know one another better. Simon, Mason and I will be asking your family to sign up for a Sunday evening that fits into your schedule to come over for dinner. We are really looking forward to knowing you each better.

Also this fall I hope to continue the book club, meeting once a month to discuss a new book. I also hope to have a coffee and theology group which will meet at the noon hour at Zuzu's to discuss a topical study, for example a Christian response to poverty or human trafficking. I also hope to have a movie group which will meet once a month to watch and discuss a movie. Finally, I am hoping we will be able to do more partnering with other churches as well as other non-profits to see how we can help one another in our missions. If you have more suggestions please let me know. I am looking forward to planning with you.

The first 2-weeks of August my family will travel to Kenya to visit our family, but we look forward to sharing that trip with you in the fall when coffee hours begin again. Otherwise we are around all summer and we are ready to explore all the parks, go strawberry picking, swimming and biking and the community band concerts! Please let us know what we should make sure not to miss!

See you soon!

Peace, Leah



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Session Briefs– Clerk of Session, Elaine Ritter

Meeting of June 27, 2011

- ◆ Session met at Parker's Grille and Tap House at 5:30pm for dinner and vision planning.
- ◆ Session discussed: What feeds our spirits? What are our main goals for the congregation? What are our passions? Based on this conversation Session has decided that we our goal for the next year will be to spend some extra energy and time focusing our on congregation and the community of Seneca Falls. We found we need to build up our foundation or base. We are going to accomplish that in the following manor.
 1. Find a community service project to do together as a church. It was said that the people in this congregation devote a lot of time, money and talents as individuals into building up Seneca Falls. We would like to do as project together as church, to focus all that time and talent into a project of the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls. We will be conducting a survey to see what interests people the most. If you have any ideas or suggestions please speak with Pastor Leah or an Elder.
 2. Have more activities which feed people. Example, Family Game Night with Dinner
 3. Inspiring Programs. Advertising our coffee hours better in the community, having more book clubs, topical studies, etc not only in our church but in the community. Plug into the work other organizations are doing and become partners.
- ◆ Session looked the by laws submitted to them by the By Law Committee . They will be submitted given to the congregation to be voted up at the congregational meeting held in November.
- ◆ Session approved the Personnel Handbook for all church employees, submitted by the Personnel Committee.
- ◆ No Meeting will be held in July. **Next meeting is Mon., Aug. 22 at 7 p.m.**



July Birthdays

Samual Rescorl...7/3
 Vivian Rescorl...7/11
 Lorienne Beals...7/12
 Eric Elyseev...7/13
 Joyce Lohr...7/23
 Curtis Porsch...7/23
 Michelle Geraghty...7/25
 Kaitlin (Richardson) Parish...7/25
 Howard Van Kirk...7/25
 Rebecca Jessop...7/26



August Birthdays

Marika Beals-Kraus...8/04
 Dorothy Dickieson...8/06
 Elizabeth Brown
 & Ruby Vogel...8/09
 Marion Crull...8/10
 Paul Elyseev...8/22
 Cherie Clark...8/24
 Mason Ntuala 8/28
 Matthew Crull...8/29



Sept Newsletter
 articles due on the
 3rd Thursday,
 August 18th
 It will be mailed
 On August 25th .

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle had an end of the year luncheon at Abigails June 6th with 17 in attendance. Virginia Champlin and Carol Limmer were present for Presbyterian Women. We welcomed all those who cannot regularly attend and please know you are always welcome at any occasional meeting.

The Sunday collections for the House of Concern:

- July-Cereal**
- August-Pasta/Sauce**
- September-Soup**

This collection usually adds 40-50 items to the supply cabinet at the House of Concern. Our congregation generously provides.

Our next meeting will be **Sept 12th**-due to the Labor Day holiday. We will begin the study: "Confessing the Beatitudes" This study covers not only the Bible verses but also the cultural and historical context. Plus, it was written by Margaret Aymer Oget, a Seminary friend of Pastor Leah. We would like to see you there at **12:30 on Sept. 12th**.

Please remember we are collecting supplies for the shelter in Geneva to be put together in September. Have a great summer! Jean Morris



"Arise shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" Isaiah 60:1

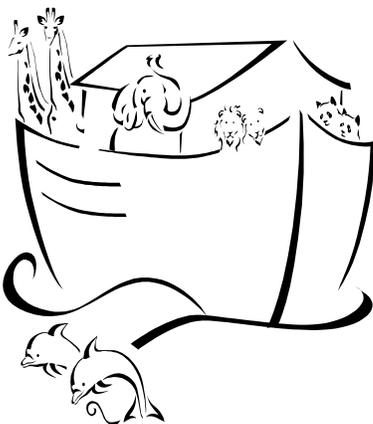
The Synod of the Northeast Presbyterian Women's Gathering will take place on July 22-24, 2011, at The Desmond located at 660 Albany Shaker Road ~ Albany, NY 12211. Their phone number is 1-800-448-3500. The theme of the gathering is Rise & Shine.

The gathering will prepare you to go forth to recharge others, get along with them, forgive them if needed, to share your faith with them, and to give God the glory through worship, dance, song and celebration.

For more information on the Gathering, contact Jane MacDonald, jkmac@nac.net

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School will be held **9am-Noon beginning, Monday, July 18th until Friday, July 22nd**. Your help is needed to make it successful. Please contact **Marion Crull** at **586.5918**. We will need helping with crafts, games, story time, music and snacks. On **Friday, July 22nd at Noon** we will be serving lunch for all the families and having a short concert and showcase of the children's work. You are all invited to attend.



| Time | |
|-------------|---------|
| 9:15-9:45 | Games |
| 9:50-10:10 | Story |
| 10:15-10:35 | Snack |
| 10:40-11:10 | Music |
| 11:15-11:55 | Craft |
| 11:55-Noon | Closing |

Belhar Confession falls short of required two-thirds majority of presbyteries, June 23

As the season of voting on constitutional amendments nears an end, it appears that all but one of the 17 amendments under consideration have been approved by a majority of presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The only amendment that cannot garner enough votes for approval by the cutoff date of July 10 – one year after the adjournment of the 219th General Assembly (2010) – is the addition of the Belhar Confession to *The Book of Confessions* of the PC(USA).

In its report to the General Assembly last year, the Special Committee on the Belhar Confession, created by the 218th General Assembly (2008), recommended the addition of the confession to *The Book of Confessions*. Last year's assembly approved the recommendation by a more than three-to-one margin.

While amendments to the *Book of Order* need approval by 87 of the 173 presbyteries of the PC(USA) to become part of the church's Constitution, confessional documents require a two-thirds majority vote, or 116 presbyteries, as well as approval by the next General Assembly.

The Belhar Confession, drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa with a theme of reconciliation, has received approval by more than half, but not the required two-thirds, of presbyteries.

In reflecting on the failure of the confession to receive enough votes for adoption, General Assembly Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons said, "The Belhar Confession is rooted in the issue of racism, which we still struggle with nearly thirty years after it was written. I think our engagement with this confession will continue to bear fruit as the church seeks to witness to God's call for justice and reconciliation."

The Reverend John Wilkinson, pastor of Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, N.Y., and the moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, noted that Belhar might not have received sufficient attention in a year when presbyteries were engaged in several substantive discussions around constitutional amendments. But he thinks presbyters still took the matter seriously.

Wilkinson said, "I read account after account of discussions that highlighted several consistent themes, including our nature as a confessional church and the need to explore that identity more deeply, and the connection between a creed from another Reformed body in another era and our contemporary moment."

The Reverend Carroll Jenkins, interim pastor of Cedar Park Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, expressed concern that the confession did not pass. A former chairperson of the General Assembly Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns, Jenkins said, "The vote is an indication to me of how much more education is needed and how far we have yet to go in understanding and dealing with the international impact of racism and racial differences."

Jenkins continued, "The world today in which the PC(USA) finds itself has much different dynamics – politically, socially, economically, and more – from our last 300 years of Presbyterian history. The church needs to help people look at not only how the world is wrestling with this issue, but at who we are and our role in the world. Hopefully, the Belhar Confession will still be an important educational and developmental tool for us."

"Belhar points to the unity of the church in the midst of true injustice, a message that we in the PC(USA) need to hear," remarked the Reverend Charles Wiley, coordinator of the Office of Theology and Worship of the General Assembly Mission Council. "Even though Belhar will not become part of *The Book of Confessions*, we can and should continue to engage with its central affirmations as a confirmation of and challenge to our faith."

Wiley pointed to a new resource that will help congregations continue their engagement of the confession. *The Belhar Confession*, a small-group study written by Cynthia Holder Rich, is the latest in the Being Reformed series published by Congregational Ministries Publishing.

Parsons concluded, "There are times when our faith is deepened and the church's witness is strengthened by our discussions and debates, regardless of the outcome of the voting. This is one of those times."

Hand Bell Choir



While the bells are being repaired we will be able to use our 4 octaves set of handchimes. We use the handchimes in combination with the bells, but they are an instrument of note by themselves. This summer we will be performing ensembles using the handchimes.

Marge

‘Learning to live together’ inside the Big Tent Racial Ethnic and Immigrants convocation’s goal is greater visibility **JUNE 23, 2011, LOUISVILLE**

Editor’s note: The second gathering of the Big Tent will be in Indianapolis June 30-July 2. Billed as a family reunion, the event will “celebrate the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).” The Big Tent is comprised of nine conferences, and participants can register for workshops in as many conferences as they choose. Worship, keynote speakers and an exhibit hall will also be part of the event. Sterling Morse calls this year’s Big Tent event his “maiden voyage.”

Less than a year ago the former Washington, D.C., pastor became coordinator of Racial Ethnic and Cross-cultural Ministries for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s General Assembly Mission Council. He will give a keynote Speech July 1 at the Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation, part of the Big Tent in Indianapolis.

Morse credits the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. for the title of his speech, “The World House.” King used the term in his last book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*. He described “the world as a house where we all have to learn to live together,” Morse explains.

“I use ‘world house’ as a metaphor for PC(USA) cross-cultural ministry,” Morse says. It’s a vision of “working together in a growing church, as opposed to all of us in our separate little rooms.” Other events at the Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation include:

- A celebration and dinner featuring presentations from various cultures;
- A workshop on the implications of the recently approved New Form of Government for new immigrant congregations;
- A progress report from the Climate for Change Task Force, which is reviewing affirmative action/equal employment opportunity, contracting and purchasing policies of the PC(USA) in order to bring recommendations to the 220th General Assembly next summer;
- Meetings of the National Asian Presbyterian Council, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and other constituent groups.

“We want to make the work of racial ethnic and new immigrant ministries more visible out in the church,” says Morse. He hopes the convocation at Big Tent will “promote more unity and collaboration in mission among the various caucuses, in order to show a truer face of the PC(USA).”

Eva Stimson is editor of Presbyterians Today magazine. She will be covering the Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation at Big Tent for Presbyterian News Service.

**Note this is the conference which Pastor Leah attended in June. I am hoping to share all I learned during a coffee hour.*

Church Family News

- ◆ Are you free in the beginning of August? If so, your help is needed to vacuum, clean and get rid of dust as Property re-sands the Social Room floors. They will also need your eyes to help make sure there are no puddles when they re-varnish. Please call **Don Ritter 568-6724** if you could help. (Thank you!)
- ◆ Congrats to **Jeb and Diana Becker** who were the recipients of the *2011 Community Service Award* given by the Convention Days on July 15th!
- ◆ The Seneca Falls **Community Band Concert** will be held in the sanctuary on Friday, July 8 at 7pm. Following the concert there will be a casual reception in the Social Rooms. **Donations of cookies/brownies, etc. and help setting up would be greatly appreciated.** Set up of the sanctuary (moving the furniture off the platform and bringing chairs up from the downstairs) will be on Thursday evening, July 7th, before the band rehearsal which starts at 7pm. Help after the concert to prepare the sanctuary for Sunday will also be needed. Tasty donations can be left in the church kitchen anytime before the concert. If anyone would be available to help set up for the refreshments after the concert that would be helpful too. **Please contact Claire Damaske, 568.6383;** cdamske@gmail.com or **Carolyn Seem, 568.5637;** cjseem@yahoo.com

* * *



IN SYMPATHY...Our Church Family offers its heartfelt condolences to the Batty Family in the loss of their son, Geoffrey Crane Batty in May 2011.

"The eternal God is your dwelling place,
And underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut. 27

* * *

Thank You to *everyone* who brought items for the House of Concern . . . To **Elaine Ritter** for her help in sending out the June *Newsletter*. To **Doreen Christopher** for thoughtfully supplying tissues for the narthex.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

- ◆ **Lindsey Morgan Gee** graduated from Mynderse Academy, Class 2011 on June 24. Lindsey was a cheerleader for both basketball and football ; played on the soft ball team; sang in chorus and played the flute. Here at church she served on the pastor search committee, helped in the nursery, and participated in pageants and church school over the years. This summer, Lindsey will work at KFC and in the fall, will attend Finger Lakes Community College to begin study in the pre-nursing program. Lindsey is the daughter of Kathy and Dave Gee .
- ◆ **Samual Rescorl** graduated from Mynderse Academy. He is the son of Albert and Vivian Rescorl and grandson of Marvin and Iva Lay. Sam will enter the University of West Virginia at Morgantown in September to study engineering.
- ◆ **Elizabeth Raines** graduated from Mynderse and will study at Onondaga Community College. "Lizzie" is the daughter of Cyndi Van Kirk and granddaughter of Howard & Barb Van Kirk.
- ◆ **Tyler Michael Morgan** graduated from Romulus Central School, where he was Valedictorian of the Class of 2011. Tyler is the son of Crystal Jones & Denny Haynes and grandson of Beatrice Jones. He will enter Cornell University to study medicine.
- ◆ **Holly Bellocchio Durso** was awarded a BS and Master in City Planning degree from Massachusetts Inst. Technology at Cambridge. She is the daughter of [former organist/choir director] Lisa Compton and Matthew Bellocchio, now of Haverhill MA.

We Rejoice and Give Thanks to God for our young people

* * *



To Keep in Our Prayers: Liz Brown, Alice Burgdorf, Carl & Norine Crull, Paul Foote, Mary Headley, Laura Hoatland, Crystal Jones, Doug Kraus, Margaret Marsh, Bill Nothstein, Sally Porsch, Tom Sage, Bill Shears, Christopher Simpson, Alberta Stuck, Dorothy Tuthill, Ian Trettle, Cathy Van Vechten, Ruby Vogel, and Fran Webb. [please call the church office to add or remove names from this list.]

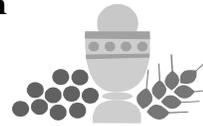
Know someone ill or hospitalized? In July/Aug., please call Joyce Lohr 568.9639

USHERS, GREETERS and NURSERY

Attention Please! If you are unable to serve on your designated date, please call someone to replace you. *And we thank you for serving*

July 3rd– Communion

Ushers: Wayne & Joyce Lohr
 Greeters: Marion Crull & Matt Crull
 Nursery: Elaine Ritter & Matt Crull



July 10th

Ushers: Dick & Claire Damaske
 Greeters: Sam & Dorothy Dickieson
 Nursery: Susan Derr & Jan Day

July 17th

Ushers: Kathy Gee & Lindsey Gee
 Greeters: Doreen Christopher & Barb Van Kirk
 Nursery: Elaine Ritter & Matt Crull

July 24th

Ushers: Don & Elaine Ritter
 Greeters: Jean Loar & Jean Morris
 Nursery: Kathy Gee & Lindsey Gee

July 31st-Communion



Ushers: Bob & Carolyn Seem
 Greeters: Marion Crull & Matt Crull
 Nursery: Barb Lohr & Susan Derr

August 7th *Guest Minister*

Ushers: George & Joanne Elyseev
 Greeters: Jerry & Barb Gray
 Nursery: no nursery

August 14th *Guest Minister*

Ushers: Marvin & Iva Lay
 Greeters: Andy & Betty Batty
 Nursery: no nursery

August 21st

Ushers: Jim & Cherie Clark
 Greeters: Liza Merriam & Jean Loar
 Nursery: Elaine Ritter & Doreen Christopher

August 28th

Ushers: Paul Richardson & Sue Derr
 Greeters: Connie Richardson & Jean Morris
 Nursery: Kathy Gee & Lindsey Gee

September 4th– Communion

Ushers: Kathy Gee & Lauren Gee
 Greeters: Jannette Monterville & Jean Loar
 Nursery: Elaine Ritter & Barb Van Kirk



PLEASE PLAN TO PAY YOUR PLEDGE & PER CAPTIA BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR SUMMER VACATION

Church Office: 315.568.6636
Hours: Monday-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
Elaine Ritter-Clerk of Session
Karen Beals-Treasurer
Marjorie Fahrenholz- Hand bell Choir Director
Kyle Bruzda- Sexton
Joyce Lohr-Secretary

Session meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm.
Presently serving Elders: Jeb Becker, Richard Burtless, 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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9 a.m.-noon , Mon., July 18 - Fri., July 22, Grades K-6

JULY / AUGUST Newsletter 2011